FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

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ONE DAY IN MENDOZA

See Page 2

FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

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WHILE WE WAIT

FOR most of us waiting is at best an aggravating business, and waiting to learn what Dr. E. U. Condon has up his sleeve—with the knowledge that past official pronouncements have invariably attempted to brush the subject aside—is doubly hard. Especially is this so for the editor of a small journal on a two-monthly schedule, who, knowing that the Report is probably complete at the time of writing his leader, still has to have his "copy" ready some six weeks before it is due to be published.

While the waiting continues, we hear the same gloomy predictions from friends and acquaintances who have visited Colorado University, summed up Dr. Condon's apparent attitude to the subject, and observed that those members of the committee who were supposedly convinced that UFOs present a problem demanding a wider investigation, have long since departed.

To offset this there have been guarded whispers from friends in the newspaper world which suggest that the Report is expected to be "slightly favourable".

We discussed these whispers with Aimé Michel who, as always, had a pertinent observation to make. The gist of this was that if he were paid a large sum of money to debunk flying saucers, and so underline the 1953 Robertson Report recommendations—all *four* of them—while appearing to take a cool new look at the subject, he would produce a *long*, *thick*, *tedious* and *very technical* report. This report would be "slightly favourable" in one aspect only, namely the *psychological* one—as Mr. Robert Low suggested it could be in his "trick" memorandum of August 9, 1966. The "saucerians", or ufologists, would discover this favourable aspect because they would read the report accurately, and would announce their discovery in their journals. The sceptical newspaper and television reviewers, on finding the report long, tedious and very technical, would only thumb through the pages. Then, seeing that the problem is a psychological one, they would be confirmed in their beliefs that the answer probably lies in fear of war, or infantile regression, or sexual frustration, or a combination of all of these and more besides. And they would add that proof of the accuracy of the report is there for all to see, for despite its cold and rational findings, the ufologists are so fanatic that they even interpret such a report as "favourable".

Perhaps M. Michel had tongue in cheek when he penned his thoughts, but they are well worth bearing in mind; indeed their accuracy can be judged if the Condon Report is made public before these lines reach our readers.

Meanwhile, waiting is made less tedious for us by the continuing news of the great South American wave. They're having a whale of a time down there, yet barely a word of it reaches news media outside that continent. We and our readers are lucky FSR has so many good and helpful friends overseas who keep us in touch with developments by sending sheafs of newspaper reports together with the results of their own investigations, and much highly relevant comment.

We may console ourselves with the thought that whatever Dr. Condon might have in store for us, it seems there'll be no shortage of UFOs.

ONE DAY IN MENDOZA

By Charles Bowen

This article was already prepared when news came to me from an Argentinian friend, in a letter dated October 4th, that in this case ". . . the two cashiers of the casino have now publicly admitted that it (their alleged encounter) was a fraud. However, there are two versions (of this retraction): one is that the hoax was performed on them; the other that they, the cashiers, were responsible. Other people say they recanted because otherwise they would have lost their jobs."

This little about-turn takes much of the value from this extraordinary account, and yet . . . I still feel it should be studied carefully, and especially with the contents in mind of the grim little notice (see opposite) which shows that it could now be a criminal offence to report UFO incidents in the Mendoza Province. So, with the exception of this introduction, I have left the article in its original form.

Flying saucers 'banned'

From the English-language *Buenos Aires Herald* for September 7, 1968—**"Police in the province of Mendoza have stepped in to halt increasing concern about the presence of flying saucers. Unable to actually outlaw the saucers themselves, the authorities have issued a communique that the spreading of saucer rumours is an offence penalised by law."**

The communique adds that "the penal code contemplates prison terms for people indulging in spreading unwarranted fear and legal action will be taken against those who break this rule."

MENDOZA lies among rugged foothills heaped high against the lofty Andean wall, the natural frontier between the Republics of Argentina and Chile. Like most towns in Argentina, it has featured sporadic bursts of UFO reports, and Rodolfo Braceli, writing in *Gente y la Actualidad* for September 5, 1968, tells how nineteenth-century records reveal that glowing objects passed through Mendozan skies for several days before a disastrous earthquake destroyed the place. Reports of similar objects in July this year were followed, fortunately, by nothing more than a strong tremor. FSR too has had its accounts of strange affairs in the district, particularly the "much ado about very little" that happened nearly four years ago.[1]

Now, even the recent case of the nurse at the Mendozan Neuropsychiatric Hospital of El Sauce[2] pales beside the alleged events of September 1, 1968.

Around about 4.00 a.m. that morning, the soldiers on duty in the guardroom at the General Espejo Military College were surprised by the sudden appearance of two young men, casino workers, obviously in a state of shock, and babbling that their car had suddenly stopped, and that when they got out to investigate the cause they had seen a flying saucer close to the ground and five small beings who communicated with them in a strange manner, took blood samples from their fingers, left inscriptions all over the car, and disappeared up a beam of light into the object which accelerated away vertically.

The startled guardsmen, no doubt feeling singularly unqualified to deal with people who saw things like that, suggested that the men should go at once to the Lagomagiore Hospital. This, according to the *Gente y la Actualidad* investigator, they did, and we learn that the police came into the picture soon afterwards. An earlier report carried in *Los Principios* of Córdoba (September 2) stated that the two men went from the College to the police, and then on to the hospital.

Whatever the correct sequence of their visits, possible corroborating events—unknown at the time to the witnesses, to the Military College guards and to the hospital staff—had taken place. One was that the staff at the Mendoza station of the Belgrano Railway Line had reported a sudden and total blackout of the lighting system at the precise time that the witnesses stated that their car had stopped. Another was that at 3.45 a.m., three minutes after the reported "auto-stop", a Senora Maria Spinelli telephoned the police from her home on the calle Luzuriaga in the Dorrego suburb some 6 km. from the scene of the encounter, and reported that a strange luminous object was flying around very low overhead.

To believe or not to believe ?

Before I proceed with details of the case, I feel it is necessary for me to re-state my position with regard to UFO/Humanoid reports of this kind. I take the line that it is essential that researchers should not overlook *anything* that is claimed or reported, however ludicrous it may seem. Furthermore, it is incumbent upon the editor of a serious journal to ensure that everything possible is examined objectively and put into the record. This is a very different kettle of fish from "believing", about which I have already expressed my views quite clearly,[3] and I never hesitate to recommend Aimé Michel's advice that we should see and hear everything, but believe nothing.

So let us return to the events that were supposed to have taken place at Mendoza in the early hours of September 1.

The alleged encounter

The witnesses who claimed the remarkable experience were Juan Carlos Peccinetti (married, aged 26) and Fernando José Villegas (married, aged 29). They are employed at a Mendoza casino and, when they finished work at 3.30 a.m., they set off for home in Villegas' vintage 1929 Chevrolet, number plate 2999.

When they reached a dark part of the calle Nequén, near the calle Laprida, the car stopped and the lights went out. Villegas got out to look under the bonnet.

Later, in an interview at the *La Crónica* offices in Buenos Aires—

reported in the edition for September 9—Peccinetti confirmed that his watch stopped at 3.42 a.m., and added that despite earlier reports to the contrary, only *he* had a watch. As he was getting out of the car he heard Villegas shout: "Look, Skinny", and thereupon they found themselves unable to move (the word "paralysed" was used) and face to face with three "humanoid" beings. Two more of the creatures, so we are told, were standing near an "enormous" circular or oval-shaped "machine", some 4 metres across and 1·50 m. high. This object was "floating" in the air 1·20 m. above a piece of waste land at 2333 calle Nequén. A powerful beam of light was directed from the object towards the ground at an angle of about 45°.

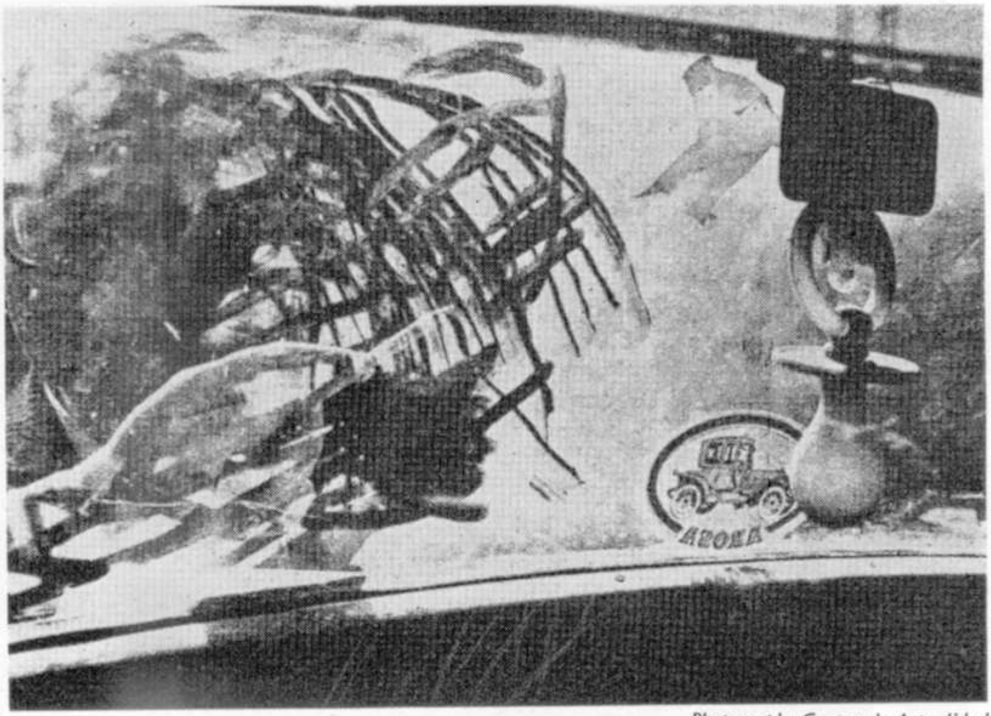
The beings, about 1·50 m. in height, appeared to be of human shape except that their heads were "strikingly" larger than normal. The heads were also hairless. The creatures wore overalls like those of attendants at a petrol filling station. Their movements were "gentle and quiet", and as they approached the two witnesses they crossed a ditch. Peccinetti observed that they crossed "as though by a bridge".

Both Peccinetti and Villegas said that when the entities had come close they could hear a foreign-sounding voice saying repeatedly: "Do not fear, do not fear." Said Peccinetti: "It was as though they had put into our ears the tiny ear-plug 'speakers' used with transistor radios."

Villegas gave details of a message that was passed to them in this way, with, all the time, the persuasive backing of "Do not fear. . . ." The gist of the message was: "we have just made three journeys around the Sun, studying customs and languages of the inhabitants of the system. The Sun benignly nurtures the system; were it not so then the Solar system would not exist."

The alleged message then ended with the statement: "Mathematics is the universal language."

While this lecture was going on, another of the little humanoids was busily tracing inscriptions on the doors, windscreen and running-boards of the vintage car. He used a small device which, we are told, was not unlike a soldering-iron, and which gave off dazzling sparks. (When during subsequent investigations a blow-lamp was used on a panel of a door, the paintwork was badly burned, as would be expected, but there were no burn marks whatsoever in the vicinity of the inscriptions.)


Photograph: Gente y la Actualidad

Investigator examines inscriptions on windscreen

There next appeared, close to the hovering object, a circular screen, not unlike that of a television set. On this there appeared a series of images. The first was a scene of a waterfall in lush country; the second a mushroom-shaped cloud; the third the waterfall scene again, but no water. (The moral of the story is . . .?)

Peccinetti and Villegas assert that after this the entities took hold of their left hands—the creatures' hands felt no different from human hands, we are told—and pricked their fingers three times. Then they turned towards the hovering "machine" and ascended to it along the light beam. Swiftly there followed an explosive effect, and the object is said to have risen into the sky surrounded by a vast radiance, and then to have disappeared into "Space".

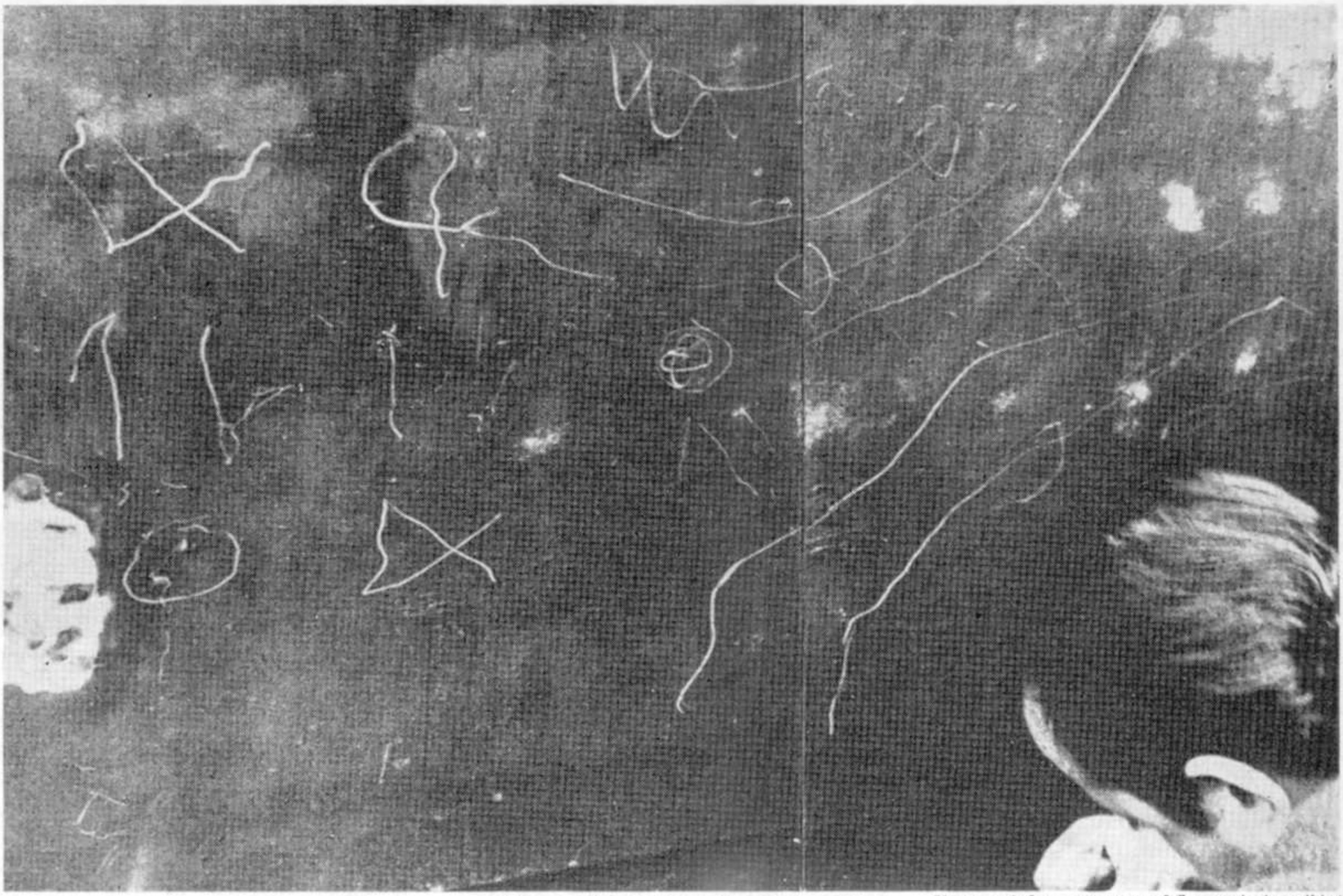
Investigation

An earlier report (*Los Principios*) stated that "when the UFO crew were returning to their machine, one of them fell down, but was quickly picked up by his companions." A few days later, during a reconstruction of the case by a judge in Mendoza, there was talk of discrepancies in the various accounts, to which Peccinetti replied in *La Crónica:* ". . . the celebrated bit about them falling over . . . that's all wrong. When the dwarfs seemed to be climbing up the light beam . . . and we heard the explosion, I heard Villegas shout: 'Run, Skinny!' and we bolted for the Military College. It was Villegas who fell over . . . and I picked him up."

It also transpired that the soldier on duty at the College said he heard an explosion and saw a glow in the distance, but afterwards denied what he had said. However, the two witnesses told *La Crónica* that several other people in the district had testified as to what they had seen and heard.

From the College guardroom Peccinetti and Villegas went to Lagomagiore Hospital. There they received attention, and the report on them indicated: "Picture of psychomotor excitation, and three small punctures on the fleshy parts of the index and middle fingers of the left hand. Identical in both of them."

The examination then continued



The marks on the side of the car

Photograph from two pages of Gente y la Actualidad

at the Central Hospital with blood tests, the results being negative. It was also revealed that for two days the witnesses were kept apart, and it is understood that during that time their stories tallied one with the other.

It was at this stage that the police intervened. Police Commissioner Miguel Montoza of the Sixth Police Section impounded the car that had been abandoned by the witnesses. Radioactivity tests on the vehicle, at the site, and at the Neuropsychical Hospital revealed nothing abnormal.

Peccinetti and Villegas assert that they are Catholics, not belonging to any spiritualistic organisation, or having any links with societies or sects.

Attempts have been made to interpret the inscriptions on the car —Gordon Creighton with his vast knowledge of languages and scripts tells me they seem to be childishly unsystematic—and we read that the Mendoza Centre for Space Research proposed this hypothesis to the *Gente y la Actualidad* reporters:

"The sketch done by the humanoids represents two solar systems, the Earth's system, consisting of Mercury, Venus and Earth, and the Jupiter system, containing the planets Io, Europa and Ganymede. Between Ganymede and Earth there are two parallel lines, as though to indicate a two-way trip, and establishing that the source of these beings is Ganymede, a sphere that is 776 million kilometres from Earth."

It surprises me to learn that they could deduce all that from the squiggles shown in the sketch, but I'm no expert in these matters. I did read in *Gente*, however, that the hypothesis was based on concepts contained in a book by Manuel Sáenz and Wylly Wolf. I think I'll side with Mr. Creighton—it's safer!

Comment

That, for the time being, is the best I can do with the material available. There was obviously an initial scramble by newspapers to get this sensational case into print —and if it *is* true then it is indeed sensational. Later investigations like those by *Gente* and *La Crónica*, seem to have been carried out reasonably carefully. A correspondent of mine in Buenos Aires tells me that when she saw Peccinetti and Villegas on television: "They did not appear to be the 'mythomaniacs' or 'publicity seekers' that the Mendoza authorities say they are. The two men looked very ordinary, and I doubt if they are publicity-seeking, for they would lose their jobs. I doubt if a casino would entrust the job of cashier to anyone about whom they were not sure. In my opinion," concludes my correspondent, "theirs is a down-to-earth job which leaves little time for 'fancies'."

Speculation

If true, this is an amazing case calling for further rigorous investigation. It is also a case with ingredients to suit adherents to both the extraterrestrial hypothesis, and those who are convinced we are

being contacted by entities who only wish us well. (On the other hand, for those who see only the gloomy side of things, it could just as easily be that they were "unpleasant" types—having a good laugh at the expense of a couple of credulous humans.)

Joking aside, could this case fit in with ideas I expressed in my last article?[4] I would suggest it could. It is conceivable that the witnesses' car could have been stopped by the presence of a "solid" object—the UFO—and that the rest of the story could have been implanted in the witnesses' minds by hypnosis, radiation, or some other form of induction. It is equally conceivable that the sighting of the object as well as of the creatures, and of all that transpired, could have been induced from afar, or from one of those enigmatic "other levels". Induced, too, with such intensity that the witnesses could be forced to inflict minor injuries on themselves, to damage their (prized?) vintage car, and to imagine the touch of the entities.

This, I insist, is *not* a "belief"; merely an idea, a suggestion for the direction of researchers more qualified than I to investigate these things. As far as I am concerned, it makes better sense than many of the other speculations to which I have listened for the past twenty years.

NOTES

[1] Bowen, C. *Crash-landed UFO near Mendoza?* FSR, Vol. 11, No. 3, May/June 1965.
[2] See *World Round-up* in this issue.
[3] Editorial *Beliefs*, FSR, Vol. 11, No. 6, November/December 1966; also see Editorial *The Other Phenomenon*, FSR, Vol. 14, No. 2, March/April 1968.
[4] Bowen, C. *Strangers about the House*, FSR Vol. 14, No. 5, September/October 1968.

SOURCES

Los Principios (Cordoba), September 2, 1968.
La Cronica (Buenos Aires), September 9, 1968.
Gente y la Actualidad (People and Events), Buenos Aires, September 5, 1968.
Our thanks are due to FSR's Associate in Buenos Aires, **Señor Guillermo J. Gainza Paz,** for sending the above newspapers.
Ya (Madrid, Spain), September 3, 1968.
Credit for sending the above account to **Señor Ignacio Darnaude** of Sevilla.

Cover photograph shows the car and particularly the marked running board

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THE 1897 STORY Part 2

By Jerome Clark and Lucius Farish

ON the morning of April 15, 1897, citizens of Linn Grove, Iowa, saw a large construction moving northward slowly, and several of them—identified as James Evans, F. G. Ellis, Ben Buland, David Evans and Joe Croskey—followed it out into the country, thinking that it might land. About four miles from town, it did. But when its pursuers got within 700 yards of it, the craft spread out its four monstrous wings and flew away. As it rose, its occupants tossed out two boulders "of unknown composition."

Concerning the beings aboard the machine, a news account mentions "two queer-looking persons . . . who made desperate efforts to conceal themselves." The observers said the entities had the longest beards they had ever seen in their lives. (Airship occupants with very long beards figure in two Arkansas contact claims of the period.)

A large dark balloon passed over Shelby, Michigan, at 9 that evening. Viewers described it as having two lights, one white and one green. At Middleville at exactly the same time, "moving and changing lights" coloured red, blue and green appeared in the south-west sky as they travelled northward and downward. An hour and a half later, another object rose out of the east and floated southwestward. This one was shaped like a large balloon with an attached car which possessed coloured lights and which scattered smoke. At 11, college students in Olivet saw three red lights moving rapidly and at great altitude.

To the local paper several Hudson residents gave their impressions of the airship that overflew their city late at night:

Gene Knapp: "It's no hoax about that airship. We had just drove [*sic*] down to the depot when some of the boys called my attention to the bright red light which seemed to be sailing into town from the west. It looked like a shooting star at first, but when it got down opposite us, on West Main street, we saw a green light about 25 feet from it, and sure, right there before our eyes. We saw the outline of a dark object against the sky, and some of 'em thought they could see several men aboard. It looked as if one of 'em was trying to wave his hat at us."

Charlie Lane: "This is no mariner's yarn. As sure as I live, I saw the airship last night. How high was it? About 400 feet from the ground I should say. Shape? Cigar-shaped and covered with a canvas canopy. It sailed right along rapidly and easily against the wind, which did not seem to have any effect on it."

Sid Lawrence: "It was certainly 25 feet long, had a rudder, was quite a curiosity."

Professor George J. Tripp, asked his opinion, said, "How do I account for it? I don't try to"—then tried to. "I think it was a star the people saw. I would like to have trained my telescope on it, anyway, that would have settled it. Of course, I didn't see it at all, but how do I account for its moving so fast? Hallucination, some men's minds move swifter than others." So much for the scientific approach.

Mentioning a sighting made by many persons at Charlotte the night before, the April 16 Detroit *Evening News* noted, "Charlotte is a dry town." So much, too, for the perceptiveness of journalists.

After an airship passage the previous night, pressmen at the office of the Battle Creek *Daily Moon* found a large sailor's needle at the door; attached to it was a letter, purportedly from the airship's crew, relating that the craft had flown from San Francisco to the Great Lakes in one day and was now on the return trip.

"Driven by steam"

Saginaw hosted mysterious aerial phenomena in the early morning hours of the 16th. Shortly after midnight, a cloud-like object, dimly lighted, came out of the south-west and kept on a northbound course "at a terrific rate of speed." At 2.45, as they patrolled on the corner of Astor and Jefferson, Roundsman Halsey and Patrolman Foley of the police force heard what sounded like the rattle of a drum. Looking up, they sighted a cigar-shaped machine and something hanging about 10 feet below the main body, carrying a red and yellow light that appeared to be shining through canvas. The airship travelled at approximately 25 miles per hour, by the policemen's estimate. A telephone workman, Thomas S. Prentice, claimed to have seen the object from the west side of the river.

"According to late reports from different parts of the country," stated a local newspaper later in the day, "the strange messenger is a real airship, operated by some of its inventors, who are simply making a trial trip and who have already made applications for patents. The principle on which it is constructed is that of the parallel plane and it is operated by steam."

Several residents of Bay City saw what at first resembled a "flying cloud" as they walked home at 12.30 a.m. from a lodge meeting. When the object got closer, it revealed itself as a material construction passing through an overcast sky. Flying slowly over Center Street, it seemed not more than 50 feet high. There was a red light at each end, and the craft itself shone with a dull red glow, as if there were lights on the other side. Conical in shape, it was from 50 to 75 feet in length, perhaps one-third that in width. The observers could see nothing that offered a clue to the object's method of propulsion.

The ship crossed into nearby Essexville and then seemed to land. No one ventured out to see if it had.

Sky-"swimmer"?

Mount Vernon, Illinois, recorded what must surely rank as one of the weirdest reports of the 1897 period. The Saginaw *Courier-Herald* recounted the bare details

(our italics): "What is thought to have been the mysterious airship was seen [at Mount Vernon] by more than a hundred persons. It was first observed about 8.30 o'clock and continued in sight for half an hour. Mayor Wells, who had an excellent view of the mysterious visitor from the observatory attached to his residence, says it resembled *the body of a huge man swimming through the air with an electric light at his back*."†

Airships appeared at Pittsford, Clayton, and Ann Arbor (all in Michigan) the same evening. At Cadmus, one excitable soul shot at the object, thinking it was a flying dragon.

Three night men employed by the Wallin Leather Company in Grand Rapids reported seeing a bright white light in the western sky. They watched it at intervals over a three-and-a-half hour period, until it disappeared in the north at 3 a.m. on the 17th.

An 1897 "message"

Later in the morning, at 6.15, on his way to work, Mr. C. T. Smith stumbled upon something on the sidewalk. Upon examination it proved to be an envelope on which someone had written "From the Airship Travellers." Inside was a letter, "written," related a news story, "on note paper with a purple indellible [*sic*] pencil, . . . attached to a piece of stiff wire about five inches long, at the other end of which was fastened, as a weight, one of the iron combination stoppers and bottle openers commonly used to open beer bottles."

The message read:

To whoever finds this. 2,500 feet above the level of the sea, headed north at this writing, testing the airship. afraid we are lost. we are unable to control our engine. please notify our people. think we are somewhere over Michigan.
Arthur B. Coats, Laurel, Miss.
C. C. Harris, Gulport, Miss.
C. W. Rich, Richburg, Miss.

April 16th, '97. 9 p.m.

An unidentified flying object flew over Three Rivers that night.

In another incident involving airships and railroads, persons at Grant Station in Bailey reported watching a huge object, about 200 feet in length, flying above the northbound evening train. The phenomenon seemed to be about a mile above the earth.

The next afternoon, a strange explosion rocked the village of Saline. Upon hearing the sound, workers just north of town had their attention attracted to a large dark object moving rapidly westward against a strong wind.

Between 8 and 9 p.m. an airship passed over Saginaw at a fast rate of speed, heading in a northerly direction. At Manistique, citizens viewed the craft travelling westward. C. R. Orr, a witness, estimated its speed at 1,000 m.p.h.—which certainly sounds extravagant, considering the relatively slow speeds other observers in other cases had reported. At any rate, the construction resembled, the Sault Ste. Marie *News* said, "a Washington cigar with a bright light in the centre of it."

Shortly after midnight, a railroad fireman named Widosky left the village of Wakefield and began walking back to his home in Thomaston. He happened to be looking down as he stepped over a mud puddle—and there he saw reflected the swaying lights of something above him. Glancing upward, he caught sight of three lights—red, green, and white—soaring across the sky with an odd undulating motion. The next morning, when he told friends, they laughingly suggested he had taken his first drink. (Mr. Widosky did not indulge.) To back up his story, he saw to it that the next night he had six potential witnesses with him, and, just after midnight, they all observed lights identical to those Widosky had seen 24 hours earlier.

An airship with a light at each end flew over Jackson on the evening of the 21st. The following night, at 11, two men of Hemlock watched an aircraft sailing southward "at a fearful rate of speed."

[*This article will be concluded in our next issue*]

NOTE

† "I'd like to know what Mr. W. H. Smith saw, Sept. 18, 1877, in the sky, moving over the city of Brooklyn. It looked like a winged human form (*New York Sun*, Sept. 21, 1877)." Charles Fort, *Lo !* Ch. 12.

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HUMANOIDS ENCOUNTERED AT LA BALEIA Part 1

By Professor Hulvio B. Aleixo

Dr. Aleixo is President of C.I.C.O.A.N.I., the Civilian Centre for the Investigation of Unidentified Aerial Objects (Centro de Investigaçao Civil dos Objetos Aéreos Nao-Identificados), Belo Horizonte, Capital of the State of Minas Gerais, Brazil. Translated by Gordon Creighton.

Translator's Note

This excellent report, a model of scientific investigation and careful sifting, deals with what seems to me to be one of the more important encounters with UFO entities recorded in South America. It appeared originally in Portuguese in CICOANI's Special Bulletin of February 1968. I have also seen the case reported in three Brazilian press-items which came to me from Mr. Nigel Rimes and other correspondents in Brazil. Two of these reports told how Professor Aleixo and CICOANI had been called in by the police to conduct an investigation.

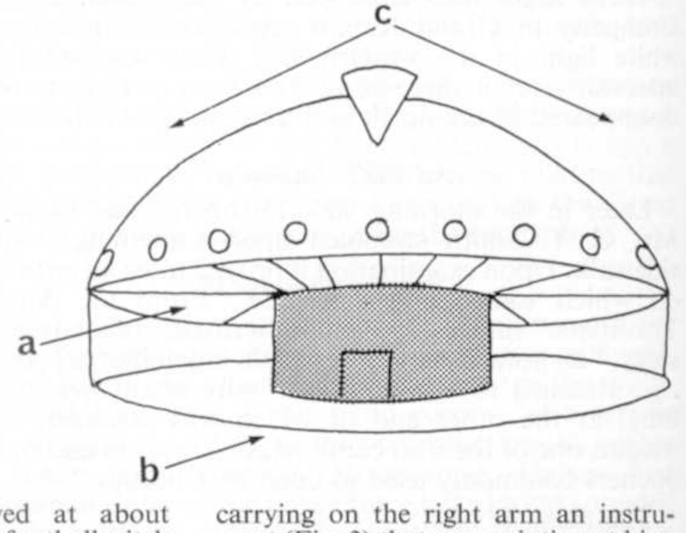

Figure 1. The "craft". (a) Intermittent flashing beams of red, yellow and blue light from flat base of dome. (b) Movable "glass" curtain surrounding dark central column, in which aperture which opened upwards can be seen. (c) Width of cupola: 20 m. Colour: brown.

AT approximately 12 o'clock noon on September 14, 1967, we received a call to go to the Police Headquarters (Departamento de Vigilancia Social) in Belo Horizonte. When we got there, the Commissioner, Dr. David Hazan, brought before us the young student Fábio José Diniz who, displaying powerful emotional reactions, with typical symptoms of shock or fear, was trying to explain what had happened to him about an hour previously. We took a preliminary statement from him and then, when the lad's nervous state had improved a little, we were taken out with him in a police car to the football field belonging to the Baleia Hospital which, as had been indicated to us, was the spot where the incident had occurred.

Throughout the whole of that day the lad remained with the Director of CICOANI, so that further questions could be asked and his behaviour could be noted.

His account
(résumé of tape-recorded statement)

Fábio J. Diniz, aged 16, says that he arrived at the terminus of the "Baleia" bus route, near the Hospital of the same name, at somewhere around 10.30 a.m. on Thursday the 14th of September. From there he proceeded, on foot, to the farthest blocks of the Hospital, where he was going to try to sell some metal window shutters.

Having walked quietly along an asphalted path between two rows of poplar trees, he arrived at about 10.50 a.m. opposite the football pitch which you come to before you reach the building. At that moment his attention was drawn to the presence of a strange object (Fig. 1), roughly of the shape of a mushroom, which was standing in the middle of the pitch. Curious, he went over to it, thinking it was some experiment connected with the Military Recruiting Week. Suddenly, with a faint and indefinable sound, from the sides of the cupola, there dropped down to the ground a transparent screen which appeared to him to be made of glass. Visible behind this screen was a sort of drum or cylinder, which was the base of the spherical dome-shaped cupola. In a fashion which he found it impossible to explain, there appeared in the cylinder, opening slowly from the bottom upwards, an aperture through which two strange individuals emerged side by side. Fábio says that he stepped backwards at that moment, but a voice made him come back: "*Don't run away! Come back!*"

Face to face with the strange beings, at a distance of about 5 metres from them, he watched one of them make a complete turn around the cylinder, while the other one said to him, in perfect Portuguese: "*Appear here tomorrow, otherwise we will take your family.*"

The other individual had now joined the first one again, and he was able to observe him too, and saw that he was carrying on the right arm an instrument (Fig. 3) that was pointing at him, like a weapon. Then the man who had spoken to him turned towards the door, gesturing to the other to follow him into the cylinder. When they had disappeared into the darkness of the opening, the opening closed up and the transparent curtain went up into place again with the same creaking sound that it had made when descending. The sound, resembling the call of the little brown Brazilian bird known as the "scissors-grinder" or *araponga*,* ceased entirely. Then the machine began a slow, silent, vertical movement. As he started to run, terrified, the lad says he caught a glimpse of it, flying at an oblique angle and still slowly, when he looked back the first time. When he looked back a second time, the object had already vanished.

Description of entities

The individuals are described (Fig. 2) as being from 2 metres to 2 metres 10 centimetres in height, with human form and human proportions and robust build. Clad from head to feet in green tight-fitting clothing similar to that of divers, all that was visible of them was part of the face, with greenish skin, two large round eyes set wide apart, with no visible white part (sclerotic), and surmounted by thick triangular-shaped eyebrows. The mouth and nostrils were not visible;

* Procnias (Chasmorhynchus) Nudicollis.—G.C.

there was a dark part of the helmet running across in front and screening them off.

From the base of this "screen" there was a tube which ran down over the chest and as far as the right heel and then rose up the back to the nape of the neck. The heels were swollen in a strange way. The fingers of the hands, which were likewise covered by the clothing, seemed to be thick and to be four in number. The only differences noted by him between the two individuals was the antenna projecting from the head of the one who had spoken and who seemed to be the leader, and the "weapon" carried by the other.

His attention was caught by the ease with which the individuals moved: long rapid strides, the feet lifted very high from the ground. On the bottoms of the heels it seemed to him as though they had a sort of "iron heel", which flattened the grass when they trod on it.

As regards the object, the saucer itself, it consisted of four parts: there was the spherical dome, 20 metres in diameter, coloured brown, with a row of apertures resembling portholes. This domed cupola, together with the apertures, was seen by him to be revolving at the moment of take-off. At the flat base of the cupola there were luminous beams, red, yellow and blue, which flashed intermittently. The cylindrical part of the craft was black, shining, more than 3 metres wide and over 2 metres high. A good proportion of its width was taken up by the door and, beyond the door, nothing was visible in the interior of the object. The thing which seemed to be like a "glass curtain" was perfectly transparent, and showed no reflections, despite the curvature.† Pointing in his direction, on the upper central part of the cupola, there was a horizontal triangular protuberance which remained stationary while the spherical cabin was revolving.

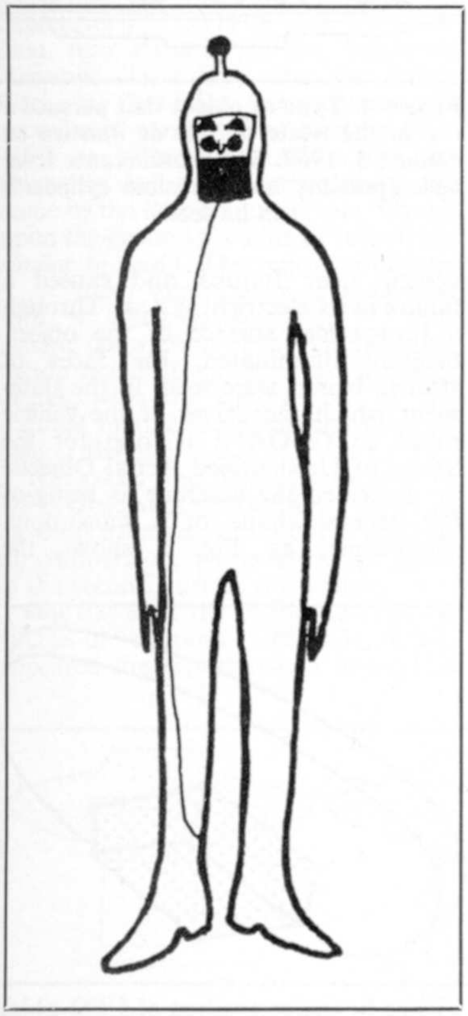

Figure 2. Sketch, by witness, of one of the humanoids.

Fábio declares that after the object had taken off, he ran to the bus stop, to go home and tell his mother of the threat hanging over him, and of his terror. But once he was inside the bus, he reflected on the state of health of his mother and decided to try to see the Police, and he got to the Police Station about 45 minutes after the incident had occurred.

Such, in brief, is the boy's statement. The taped account will supply the minutiae on certain secondary details.

Working hypotheses

In conducting an investigation, the hypothesis adopted from among various alternatives is normally the simplest working hypothesis, i.e. the one most consistent with empirical observation or logical reasoning.

To start with, the simplest explanation for the boy's story seemed to us to be the subjective one. In this field, two possibilities would have to be investigated: the possibility of *conscious* fantasy, which in this case would be synonymous with a hoax, a trick—or *unconscious* fantasy, involving the processes of illusion or hallucination, in this latter case at a frankly psychopathic level.

Elimination or minimisation of the subjective hypothesis would, if it came to that, necessarily imply that the remaining hypothesis had prevailed, namely the hypothesis that the incident had objective reality.

I. COLLECTION OF DATA

(a) Examination of the field and description of the locale

The gathering of data had begun immediately with our first interrogation while we were still in the Police Station. It continued with our first visit to the locale. There, in the presence of Police Commissioner Dr. David Hazan and his assistants, and the chauffeur of the car and ourselves, the student re-enacted the scene, and again displayed a violent emotional reaction, particularly when describing the part where, according to his statement, two strange individuals had emerged from the UFO.

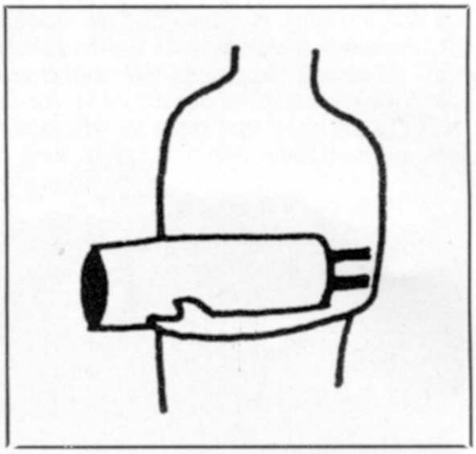

Figure 3. Object (weapon?) carried by one of the entities.

Searching around for some evidence or other on the dried ground and the bone-dry grass, we perceived two small depressions, in the form of an arc of a circle, lying a considerable distance the one from the other. Near one of them there was a slight depression shaped like the heel of a rather large shoe, which Fábio reckoned was a footprint of one of the individuals. The nature of this mark was not such as could either confirm or eliminate that possibility.

Throughout the whole of the reconstitution of the scene, the spot and the immediate vicinity, including the approach road and the windows of the large hospital building, remained totally deserted.

The Baleia Hospital stands on the outskirts of the suburb known as Bairro da Saudade, to the east of Belo Horizonte (State Capital of the State of Minas Gerais). It is a quite lonely and hilly area, lying on the slopes of the mountain range known as the Serra do Curral, and the Hospital consists of a group of pavilions arranged around an open square. One pavilion, for tubercular children, lies apart, isolated, on the south side, at about 900 metres from the main group of buildings. In order to reach the pavilion in question you go along an avenue bordered by luxuriant vegetation. In front of the building, and on the right-hand side of the avenue of poplars, is the football pitch. The whole horizon consists of mountains and vegetation.

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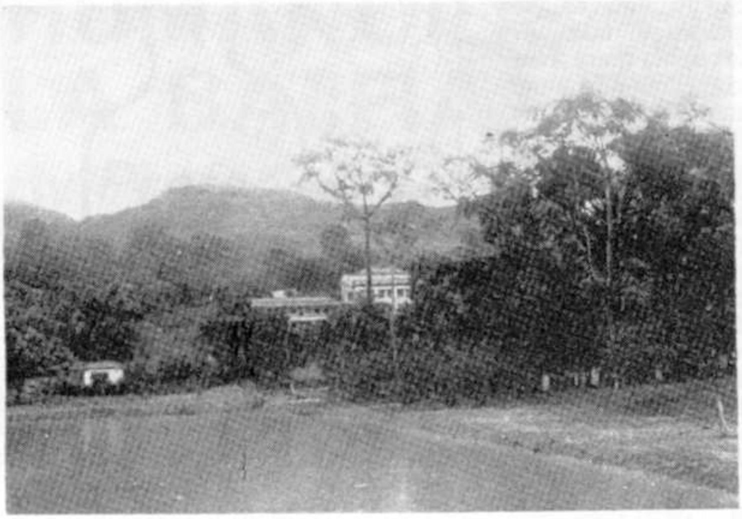
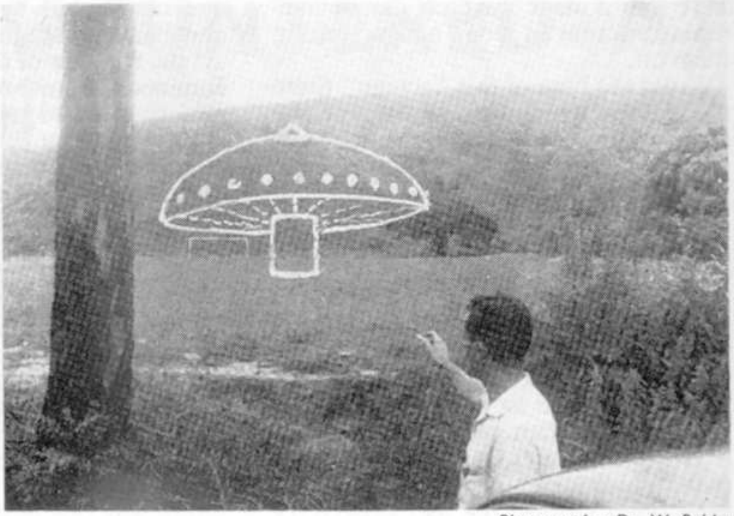
† *Note by Prof. Brant Aleixo:* The shape of the cupola and the absence of reflections exclude the possibility that the "curtain" can have been of polished material of the consistency of glass.

Photographs: Dr. W. Buhler

Left: The Hospital, La Baleia. Right: The author looks towards the football field. UFO drawn in approximately in position seen.

(b) Reconstruction of the scene next day

At 10 a.m. next day a team from CICOANI, consisting of five members and three observers, went with the boy to the football field, where a fresh and most detailed reconstruction of the scene was enacted, with filming and photography, in the presence of two members of the civilian Police and two men from the Military Police.

A compass was used in an endeavour to find some clue in the local magnetism. The variations of the needle were, however, not significant. The lack of a Geiger counter made it impossible to do a radioactivity test.

A small quantity of material, apparently scorched and granular in form, was gathered near the centre-line of the football field.

We were able to establish, from the information supplied by the nuns and officials of the Hospital, that nobody in that whole neighbourhood had noticed anything abnormal at the time indicated by the boy. On the other hand it was elucidated that in fact, at the time in question, all the children in the building, the employees, and the duty-guards, were all concentrated *inside* the building, either having breakfast or working.

2. EXAMINATION OF THE DATA

Two days after the boy had made his statement, the case began to catch the attention of the press. An important aim in our investigations would be to situate the incident within the context of UFO sightings, either contemporary or distant in time, in order to verify whether it was a case of an isolated occurrence or, should the contrary be established, then to discover any correlations that might exist.

First of all, let us see what is revealed by the documentation on occurrences happening contemporaneously with the Baleia Case.

A. Contemporary Occurrences

(i) Contemporary Cases in Adjacent Areas

Taking as our point of reference the date of the Baleia Case (September 14, 1967), examination of the documentation shows that there was a whole series of incidents grouped around that day, both in the immediate geographical vicinity and in distant areas.

On the evening of **September 16,** two days after Fábio had told his story, a circular UFO, dark in colour and with clearly perceived outlines, was seen rotating upon its own axis and moving on a spiral course, the witnesses being in two different parts of Belo Horizonte and neither known to each other nor have they communicated with each other.[1]

At 11.20 a.m. on **September 24,** one of the three luminous points of light that were floating above Itajubá in the State of Minas Gerais assumed a shape described as "a cupola with an appendage below", of the general shape of a mushroom. *This appendage grew as the object approached the ground* (to a height of 2,000 metres) and "*gave the impression of withdrawing inwards again when the movement of the craft was upwards*, presenting then merely the shape of a flattened disc."[2]

On **August 3,** in the State of Rio de Janeiro, the car of a Rio lawyer was followed by a UFO, the description of which fits the Baleia Case if (see Fig. 4) we take the small protuberance on the lower surface to be the visible extremity of the cylinder that has slid up into the interior of the spherical cabin. (Be it noted moreover that the description, with the illustration as shown, appeared in the pages of the Rio de Janeiro magazine *O Cruzeiro* only *after* Fábio J. Diniz had made his statement.[3])

In the early morning of **June 7, 1967** a UFO approached close to a motor vehicle near Itajubá and caused a failure in its electrical system. Through a transparent surface of the object, brightly illuminated, the faces of strange beings were seen. In the statement which the driver of the vehicle made to GEOANI (Group for the Study of Unidentified Aerial Objects) he described the machine as being of the general shape of a mushroom. Meanwhile, as Fig. 5 shows, the

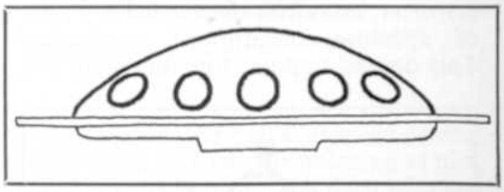


Figure 4. Type of object that pursued a car in the State of Rio de Janeiro on August 3, 1967. The protuberance from base (possibly an extrusible cylinder?) can be seen.

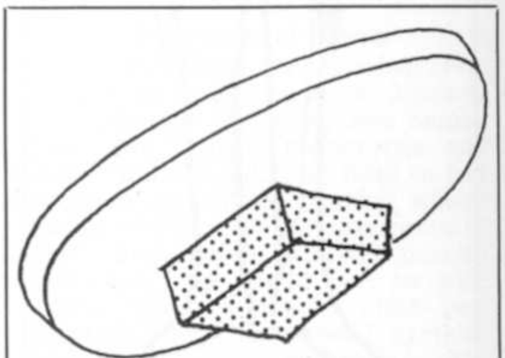


Figure 5. Under position of UFO which halted the engine of a motor vehicle near Itajubá early on June 7, 1967.

protuberance underneath was in this case quadrangular.[4]

On **August 15, 17 and 18,** UFOs were observed in the vicinity of Belo Horizonte. The August 15 case refers to a landing beside highway BR-135. The sighting of August 18, in broad daylight, involved a UFO at a height of about 300 metres from the ground, and in the vicinity of that same highway.[5]

In **October 1967** also there were significant happenings in Belo Horizonte and vicinity. One of these cases concerns a UFO which flew, skimming the rooftops, in the early hours of the morning across the central part of the city. One of the witnesses, being jolted out of his sleep by the experience, suffered a curious psycho-physiological effect while the UFO was passing overhead.[6]

The bulk of these cases—as well as of others that we have not quoted—have remained at the confidential level, that is to say, they have not been published.

(ii) Recent Cases in Distant Areas

We thought it worthwhile to investigate the similarity between the Baleia Case and the one that occurred on **September 11, 1967,** at Villa Constitución, near Rosario, in the Argentine Republic. Two days after the Baleia Case, the Brazilian press carried the account of a night-time landing by a UFO at Villa Constitución. On the following day, when approaching the scene of the landing, observers "found upon the ground remains of something *similar to coal*". The report continues . . . "these were *grains of something with a disagreeable smell*."[7] This generic description of the Villa Constitución material agrees to a surprising degree with the description of the residual matter found on the football field at Baleia.

We asked the Rosario Group of UFO Observers (GRODOV) to let us have any eventual results of the analysis for comparison. These results are given in the second part of this article.

One day after the Baleia Case, at the village of Alamosa, Colorado, USA, appeared the report that a horse had been struck dead by a flying saucer. The animal's body, part-stripped of flesh, with the bones exposed but showing no sign of burns, was found at a spot where various other marks or incidents suggested that a UFO might have landed. This case,[8] by the nature of its location, is particularly accessible for investigation by the Condon Project Commission of the University of Colorado.

B. Incidents Remote in Time and Place

Going back in time in our bibliographical researches, we found a basic correspondence between the Baleia Case and four other cases in distant areas.

The San Casciano Case

The first of these cases, on April 10, 1962, involves, as witness, Mario Zuccala, aged 26, married, a tailor, residing in San Casciano, near Florence, Italy. At night, returning home along a deserted street, the witness felt himself struck by a blast of air and beheld a UFO, 8·50 metres in diameter, of a grey colour, and in the shape of two plates stuck together. The object (Fig. 6) came to a halt at a short distance from him, and at a height of 2·50 metres from the ground. *From its lower portion emerged a cylinder*, 1·50 *metres in width, until it reached the ground.* The witness had the impression that, when it had touched the ground, a cylindrical sheath then re-entered the machine, leaving exposed an *inner cylinder, in which a door slowly opened, from below upwards. Two beings emerged through the opening.* Height: 1·50 metres, human shape, entirely covered in a kind of shining metallic clothing. Two vertical antennae on their heads. The two individuals took the witness aboard, politely, into an empty enclosure that was all lit up. Then he heard *a voice that did not come from the two individuals, but from the central part of the object;* it resembled *a voice amplified by a microphone and as if resounding in a vast space. The voice was speaking in Italian.* According to the witness, the message was as follows: "At the fourth Moon we will come at 1.00 o'clock in the morning to give you a message for mankind. We shall give notice of this to another person in order to confirm the reality of what you have seen." The object *left no trace whatever on the ground.*[9]

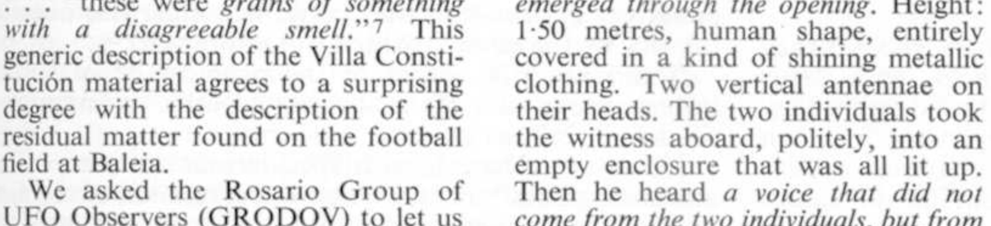


Figure 6. The San Casciano UFO, as described by Mario Zuccalà, which had an extrusible central column (FSR, July/August 1962).

The Catania Case

This case concerns the government employee Eugenio Siragusa, aged 43, married, residing at Corso Province 146, Catania, Italy. It involves two contacts, both at night, investigated by the journalist Renato Albanese of the *Domenica del Corriere*. After having seen flying saucers pass over his house several times, Siragusa entered into contact, by what he terms "mental probes", with strange individuals on two occasions.

On the night of April 30, 1962, he says he met, on the slopes of Mt. Etna, two individuals 1·65 metres in height, of human shape, clad in divers' suits of metallised tissue, made of one piece, and with belts emitting *intermittent yellow-green-blue light*. He said that, at a distance of only 1·5 metres, one of the individuals dictated to him, *in Italian, a message for the powerful ones of the earth*, exhorting them to peace. The voice *did not have a human timbre, and seemed to be from a tape-recording, and had a metallic tone*, says Signor Siragusa. Coming to the edge of a crater, he next observed an object about 15 metres in diameter, the shape of which was indistinct because of the dazzling light from it.

During the night of September 5, 1962, near Monte Manfrè, the second meeting was alleged to have taken place. At a short distance from Signor Siragusa appeared two individuals, whose *height was not less than* 2·15 *metres*. The light from their belts prevented him from seeing their faces. They were dressed in the same way as the first ones. There was also a *message, dictated in Italian*. The object is described as an *enormous spinning top 25 metres wide, suspended in the air.* "*From the under part*"—says Siragusa—"*A metallic cylinder over three metres long reached down almost to touch the road, with a small door, a sort of lift*".[10]

The Pajas Blancas Case

In April 1957 a motorcyclist was riding along the road, 15 kilometres from the International Airport at Pajas Blancas, near Rosario, Argentina, when he perceived a disc *20 metres in diameter and 5 metres thick* hovering 15 metres above the ground. The electric system in his machine failing, he hid in a ditch beside the road. The disc came down to a *height*

(*continued on page 20*)

UFOs AND THE FOURTH DIMENSION
Part 4
By Luis Schönherr

A welcome return by our contributor whose first article in this series appeared in FLYING SAUCER REVIEW for March/April 1963.

IN a recent article,[1] it has been suggested that imperfect vision on part of the "pilots" of the UFOs may be responsible for the often reported erratic movements when they try to pursue automobiles.

The author argues that the visual system of the UFO pilots may not be adapted to the density of our atmosphere; that their vision may also be affected by the daylight, this being the reason for their preference for operations at dawn, dusk or night.

One could say, however, that the peculiar behaviour of the UFOs in some cases has an even greater similarity to a disease, known in neurology as *intentional tremor*.[2]

Such symptoms could be caused by insufficient attenuation, or feed-back, within the control system, i.e. it responds with a disproportionate counteraction to a small deviation from the true pursuit course.

Both suggestions however are open to objections. It is true that low-level UFO-activity increases during the night hours[3] but more probably the reason for this could be the same as the reason for their preference for thinly populated areas. And, what is more important, there are numerous cases of well-controlled movement, and precise and sudden evasive action both in the air and on ground level, in broad daylight as well as at night, which indicate that the sensory and controlling systems of the UFOs must be of very good definition, velocity of reaction, and coordination—be they living brains with eyesight, or highly sophisticated computers with other sensory means!

Would the UFOs shoot around at such speeds if they could not rely, under all circumstances, upon their sensory systems? Is it likely that an advanced technology could have found no means to compensate for such minor inadequacies? After all, our submarine photographers and hunters have overcome similar difficulties rather well.

But let us first enquire what could be the meaning behind such occurrences.

Those who emphasise what might be called the "Defence-aspect" of the UFO problem, imply that the UFOs are studying our transportation system. But why then are the UFOs not to the same extent interested in trains and ships, which do the bulk of our transport work? There is no reason to assume that airliner pilots and car and lorry drivers are more talkative than railway employees and sailors.

There is however another very significant relation. Of all moving objects UFOs seem to be interested mainly in those with electrical ignition systems.

How are we to interpret this fact?

Some researchers, especially those who have shown growing concern about possible hostile actions, have suspected that the UFOs want to stop traffic on some future occasion. But why have they been stopping cars throughout the years, thus demonstrating their capabilities and giving us an opportunity to develop countermeasures?

If, finally, we search for a meaning for such occurrences not so much in possible future intentions, but rather in the individual cases themselves we are likewise at a loss for an explanation.

Admittedly many drivers and pilots have been pretty unnerved, but there are too few cases—if any at all—which would allow us to conclude that the purpose of all these pursuits was some immediate action, hostile or indifferent, with regard to the pursued object, or that such actions were intended but had failed in every case.

On the contrary, although they have stopped cars, the fact that they apparently have not so often interfered to the same extent with the ignition systems of aircraft could indicate some sort of consideration.

Could it be that some action *is* actually taking place but that we are not able to recognise it as such?

It has been suggested—even by scientists—that UFOs may be able to monitor our thoughts.[4]

But why should the UFOs repeat this operation over and over again throughout the years when the thoughts of pilots, drivers and passengers are probably always the same in such a situation?

However, if we are already speculating along such a line, why not ask whether UFOs could not be interested in the monitoring of memories? From memories they could get information they could not otherwise obtain (as well as the code in which it is expressed).[5]

Could not this aspect of the problem be of some importance in view of the alleged telepathic communications by UFO occupants?

However, although such speculations seem to offer an enticing possibility for a new interpretation of certain contact cases, they cannot be applied to the pursuit cases.

Thinking is accompanied by dynamical electrical processes in our brain. Such processes could in turn create what are popularly termed "thought waves". Although there is more than one indication that this concept is rather naïve and inadequate, it would allow us at least to understand approximately how monitoring of thoughts could work, namely by tuning an appropriate receiver to the length of the thought waves.

Monitoring the human memory would be quite another matter. Computer technology knows of two basic types of memories. The one stores information by means of a dynamical process, e.g. mechanical waves travelling through mercury between two piezo electric units. The other type works statically, e.g. storing the information by the status of switches within an electrical circuit.

According to most neuro-cyberneticists the human

memory belongs to the second type. It is a network of millions of microscopically small interconnections (synapses); the status of them representing the information. The capacity of this memory has been estimated at 10^9 to 10^{13} bits.[6]

As there is no dynamical process in such a memory, there are no "waves" that could be picked up.

Anyone wishing to monitor such a memory from outside, without using other parts of the brain as do the known techniques of psychoanalysis and brainwashing, would have to scan the status of each of these synapses and activate the retarded information.

It seems impossible that any such thing could be done from a UFO under the circumstances of the pursuit cases.

In 1959 an Austrian periodical published an article with the title *Creatures from the Stratosphere?*[7]

The author suggested that the UFOs could be animals indigenous to the upper atmosphere and that their peculiar behaviour in such cases could be explained by the animal play instinct.

If I am a bit sceptical about such things it is not because I have a special liking for technical answers to all problems, but because UFO close approach and landing reports point decidedly to entities of human appearance using artificial means of transportation.[8]

The following suggestion lies along the same line as the hypotheses I have presented in previous articles.[9]

In my second article on UFOs and the fourth dimension, I suggested (with respect to unexplained radar echoes) that electromagnetic force fields may have a four-dimensional structure not only in mathematical abstraction but also in reality. The force fields created by the ignition systems of our vehicles should therefore be detectable within another three-dimensional space of the four-dimensional continuum, i.e. the space from which the UFOs originate.

Movement of the field source may indicate that there is intelligent action. A UFO takes off and tries to lock on to the signal. But as the "occupants" are three-dimensional entities, just as we are, they cannot see beyond their three dimensions. Therefore navigation within the continuum, and homing on to the field source may be extremely difficult, perhaps even luck.

At first, during the process of approach, the luminous projection of the UFO's force field appears within our space near the car or plane. The navigational difficulties could account for the often reported erratic motion.[10]

Yes, they may suffer from imperfect "vision" but certainly not with respect to the three dimensions where their craft exhibit an incredibly perfect manoeuvrability. But within the continuum they have to depend on instruments which may be imperfect, because it is possible that the creators of the UFOs themselves have only an incomplete understanding of the laws of four-dimensional travel.

When finally the UFO has successfully entered (materialised within) our space, the field-emitting craft is of no more interest to it than the lighthouse is to a skipper once he has reached port.

The foregoing suggestion is not in all cases consistent with the facts. I feel however that we should possibly distinguish between cases where cars or planes have been approached or pursued by:

1. Solid, metallic-looking UFOs (already being within our space) and
2. By luminous UFOs (in the process of approaching or entering our space), preferably with an erratic motion, sometimes passing through a phase of transition from luminous non-material appearance to a solid appearance during the final part of the observation.

It seems that cases of the second type mostly occur at dusk or at night. Furthermore it is rather surprising how often cars quite "coincidentally" come across UFOs on or near a road. One could suggest that materialisation could have taken place near this car or a car ahead, but had not been observed because drivers concentrate upon the road and seldom have an unobstructed view in all directions.

NOTES

1 Dr. Bernard E. Finch. *Can They See Us?* FSR March/April 1968.

2 People suffering from intentional tremors experience a shake when they try to grasp an object. The more they try to reach it, the greater the shake. Intentional tremors can be simulated not only by means of computers, but also by comparatively simple devices (for an example see N. Wiener, *The Human Use of Human Beings*).

3 J. and J. Vallée, *Challenge to Science*, p. 151 ff.

4 C. Maxwell Cade. *A Long Cool Look at Alien Intelligence* (IV), FSR November/December 1967.

5 John A. Keel. *A New Approach to UFO Witnesses*, FSR May/June 1968. This article is full of dark hints, as the author apparently doesn't want to disclose all his cards. Why does he suggest that the investigators should prod into the memories of the witnesses?

6 For comparison: Storage of the information contained in an average book of 300 pages would require 4 x 10^6 (4 million) bits (binary digits).

7 Zoe Wassilko-Serecki (Vienna), *Lebewesen aus der Stratosphäre?* Neue Illustrierte Wochenschau, May 17 and 24, 1959.

8 As readers know, I have been concerned mainly with a possible synthesis between the fact that UFOs on the one hand show all characteristics of material things, and on the other, their mysterious mode of appearance and disappearance. I have tried to formulate such a synthesis in terms of physics and technical knowledge. This may or may not have been a matter of unconscious prejudgement and I do not deny the possibility of other explanations, such as the biological, either for the whole phenomenon or only part of it.
But if one demands of the technical quarter that they consider the whole body of reports and that they explain things as far as possible in known terms without introducing more hypothetical things and causes than necessary, then one must demand the same from the other side (see also: A. Michel, *A Note on William of Occam*, FSR March/April 1968). Bearing this in mind, I feel one should consider the following points which also have some bearing on the problem discussed in the present article.

8 (i) It seems that the variety of the UFO phenomena sometimes leads to the assumption that it must be the result of the manifestations of quite a number of very different and independent things of different origin and motives. I cannot help feeling, however, that this reasoning has some similarity with the well-known argument that a witness must have seen a balloon and a jet when he reported an object that hovered and flew fast.

(*continued on p.15*)

UFOs AND COMMERCIAL AIR TRAFFIC

Part 2 How Project Blue Book could be involved

By David Brobeck Jr.

RETURNING to the imaginary litigation which I proposed at the outset in Part I of this article, Mary Doe, the plaintiff, is bringing a survival action against three named defendants. The most deeply involved is the U.S. Government, since the acts of both the FAA controllers and the Air Force Project Blue Book officials are under attack. The plaintiff's evidence against the Air Force handling of the situation would undoubtedly include a résumé of the Air Force's UFO investigatory activities; the historical perspective is crucial in proving the alleged negligence.

As a result of a flurry of sightings throughout the United States in 1947, Lt.-Gen. Nathan Twining, Commander of the Air Material Command, requested an investigation be instigated, and stated that there was "sufficient substance to the reports to warrant detailed study."[20] Thus, "Project Sign" came into being on February 11, 1948. Approximately one year later, in February of 1949, Project Sign was published, stating that on the basis of 243 of the "best documented" reports studied, "no definite evidence was available to confirm or disprove the actual existence of unidentified flying objects as new and unknown types of aircraft."[21] The following year the project name was changed to "Grudge," and the conclusions of this report were two-fold. First, it was stated that the phenomena *presented no threat* to the security of the United States, and secondly, that the vast majority of the sightings could be attributed to misrepresentations of known objects.[22] Finally, in March of 1952, the Air Force was awarded the job of evaluating any possible threat that such objects might pose; the designated name, "Project Blue Book", has not changed since that time.

Blue Book objectives

Project Blue Book has two stated objectives: First, "to determine whether UFOs pose a threat to the security of the United States"; and second, "to determine whether UFOs exhibit any unique scientific information or advanced technology which could contribute to scientific or technical research."[23]

The Air Force position of "no threat" has been reiterated in recent years as well. Early in 1966, an *ad hoc* committee of the USAF Scientific Advisory Board reviewed the resources, methods, and conclusions of Project Blue Book. Although a strengthening of the project staff and initiation of an in-depth study on selected cases were among the recommendations, the Board concluded that "in the 19 years since the first UFO was sighted there has been no evidence that unidentified flying objects are a threat to our national security."[24] The same policy was repeated, almost verbatim, on April 5, 1966, when Dr. J. Allen Hynek, accompanied by Dr. Harold Brown, Secretary of the Air Force, and Major Hector Quintanilla, Jr., UFO Project Officer, appeared before the House Committee on Armed Services. In one part of his testimony, Dr. Brown assured the Committee that "The Air Force will continue to investigate such phenomena with an open mind and with the finest technical equipment available."[25]

Blue Book staff

However, certain facts about the Project itself seem to indicate that "the finest technical equipment available" is not an apt description of its priority. Although the Air Force does have at its disposal numerous scientific consultants in the form of selected scientific advisers and some governmental agencies, the Project Blue Book staff itself consists (at time of writing) of an Air Force Major, Hector Quintanilla, and his staff of four—a first lieutenant, a staff sergeant, a secretary, and a part-time typist. Although Quintanilla is well qualified, the importance of the project as rated by the Air Force is shown by the fact that no officer above the rank of Major has ever been assigned to it on a permanent basis. Until recently, Blue Book occupied one 18-30ft. room in the Air Technical Intelligence Command building of the Wright-Patterson base. Thus, it appears that many of the quick and often widely disputed "explanations" for sightings provided by Blue Book may be due to a lack of resources for thorough investigatory activity, rather than to a desire to suppress information. Public opposition to their official pronouncements is reflected by a statement from the staff of *Life* magazine: "During the ensuing year there will be authenticated sightings of roughly 200 Unidentified Flying Objects, of which the Pentagon will be able to disprove 210."[26]

Clear evidence of undue secrecy or "cover-ups" coupled with a failure to investigate important sightings would most certainly strengthen the plaintiff's allegations of "wilful and . . . wanton disregard for the safety and welfare of the passengers. . . ." I have already referred to Air Force Regulation 200-2 and the provision for withholding information unless a sighting has been positively identified as a familiar or known object. What motive the Air Force would have for a deliberate cover-up is unclear, but many are known to have occurred. One such incident, which appropriately enough involved a commercial airline pilot's report, is mentioned by the former head of Project Blue Book, Captain Edward J. Ruppelt, in his excellent book referred to earlier.

Typical Blue Book "explanation"

When the report came in from airline pilots Lawrence Vinther and James Bachmeier of their experience of being buzzed by a cigar-shaped object as they were taking off from Sioux City, Iowa (see p. 5), Captain Ruppelt witnessed the reaction by Air Force investigators. The sighting was treated as a joke; the

"investigator" merely located an Air Force bomber near Sioux City and blamed it for the sighting. Captain Ruppelt commented on the arbitrary "explanation" by pointing out the absurdity of a bomber buzzing an airliner in an airport traffic pattern.[27] There was no investigation in this case, and one cannot help but wonder as to how many other such counter-to-fact "explanations" have been promulgated in past years.

In recent years there have been an increasing number of prominent scientists and legislators who have indicated their recognition of and objection to the Air Force policy of secrecy and misrepresentation on matters involving UFOs. In 1965, the Honourable John McCormack, Speaker of the House, stated:

"I feel that the Air Force has not been giving out all the available information on these Unidentified Flying Objects. You cannot disregard so many unimpeachable sources."[28]

The *Yale Scientific Magazine's* criticism was expressed thus:

"Based upon unreliable and unscientific surmises as data, the Air Force develops elaborate statistical findings which seem impressive to the uninitiated public, unschooled in the fallacies of the statistical method. One must conclude that the highly publicized periodic Air Force pronouncements based upon unsound statistics serve merely to misrepresent the true character of UFO phenomena."[29]

In Part III of this article I will examine possible FAA liability in this hypothetical case.

NOTES

20 *The Unidentified Flying Object Program* U.S. Air Force summary outline prepared by Project BLUE BOOK, p. 2.
21 *Ibid.*, p. 2.
22 *Ibid.*, p. 2.
23 Project Blue Book, *Special Report No. 14* (*Analysis of Reports of Unidentified Aerial Objects*) Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio; Air Technical Intelligence Center, May 5, 1955), p. 1.
24 Dr. Brien O'Brien and others, "Special Report on the USAF Scientific Advisory Board Ad Hoc Committee to review Project 'Blue Book'," March 1966, p. 2.
25 U.S. Congress. House Committee on Armed Services. *Unidentified Flying Objects. Hearing by the Committee on Armed Services.* (89th Congress, 2nd session, April 5, 1966), p. 5992.
26 *Life* magazine, January 6, 1958, p. 16.
27 Ruppelt, Edward J., *op. cit.*, pp. 119-120; *The UFO Evidence, op. cit.*, p. 117.
28 *True* magazine; January, 1965.
29 *Yale Scientific Magazine*, Yale University, Volume XXXVII, No. 7, April 1963.

L. SCHÖNHERR NOTES (*continued from p.13*)

If one observes the different properties A, B, C . . . repeatedly in a certain connection (and a UFO wave or a sighting may rightly be regarded as such) it seems fairly methodological to assume that A, B, C . . . are different aspects or effects of one and the same basic cause. It is not probable that different and independent causes combine repeatedly in such a manner as to simulate one single cause.

8 (ii) Explanations assuming that all UFOs are animals controlled by a mere animal intelligence have first to account convincingly for the landing reports. The author of the article mentioned above (7) suggested that frightened witnesses could have mistaken the tentacles of UFO animals for human-like entities. This is hardly the manner in which one could dispose of all the entity reports and contacts.

8 (iii) If only some UFOs are animals they are very probably brought into action by the same intelligence that is responsible for the other part of the UFO phenomenon. They could be a sort of guinea-pig for the testing of long-term effects of our environment upon them.
As they would have to be recovered they would most likely be earthbound creatures with limited mobility exposed in inaccessible areas. Recovery of airborne beings would be difficult if not impossible. One could think of a special direction finding or homing instinct as observed in carrier pigeons. But would they then stay long enough?
It is also very doubtful whether creatures would be chosen whose play instinct could only endanger them unnecessarily.

9 *UFOs and the Fourth Dimension.* Part 1, FSR March/April 1963; Part 2, FSR January/February 1964; Part 3, FSR November/December 1965.

10 There are cases on record in which the movements of such luminous objects were rather of a kind that one is tempted to assume that a sort of "scanning" took place. (See Aimé Michel: *Flying Saucers and the Straight Line Mystery*, pp. 115-116, October 3. 1954 Herissart to Amiens.)

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IS THE "E M" EFFECT A MYTH?

By John A. Keel

BETWEEN the years 1817-21, a strange and sinister influence settled over the farm of John Bell in Robertson County, Tennessee. Flying lights "like a candle or lamp" were frequently seen flitting about the yards and fields near the old farmhouse and a voice from an apparently invisible source heckled the family and carried on extensive dialogues with visitors and curiosity seekers. The full story of the celebrated "Bell Witch" has been carefully documented and is too long and complicated to even outline here.[1] But it deserves careful study since it, and the many other cases like it, may provide important clues to the overall UFO phenomenon.

According to Dr. Nandor Fodor, General Andrew Jackson was one of those attracted to the Bell homestead during the period of the "haunting". As General Jackson's horse-drawn wagon approached the area the wheels suddenly seemed to freeze and the straining horses were unable to budge it. Jackson dismounted and examined the wheels and axles and was unable to find any reason for this sudden problem. The wheels simply would not go around. As he stood there, scratching his head in bewilderment, "a sharp metallic voice" suddenly rang out from behind some nearby bushes.

"All right, General," the voice announced. "Let the wagon move."

To everyone's amazement, the wheels began to turn again.

This incident was recorded as just another manifestation of the "Bell Witch" and was shrugged off by investigators who were more concerned with proving that the phenomenon was caused by an "evil spirit" or a "dead soul", than with assembling all of the variegated activities and observations taking place in the area. Actually, if this particular story is true, it may be the first concrete example of what has now become known as "the E M effect" (electro-magnetic effect), even though no electrical apparatus was involved.

General Andrew Jackson went on, of course, to become the 7th President of the United States (1829-37). The "Bell Witch" eventually was alleged to have caused the death of John Bell before it disappeared into the limbo from which it had come. But during one of its many "conversations", it was said to have declared, "I am a Spirit from everywhere, Heaven, Hell, the Earth; am in the air, in houses, any place at any time, have been created millions of years; that is all I will tell you".

New line of enquiry

Tales of the occult stick in the craws of most Ufologists . . . particularly those who have spent the past twenty years seeking rather vainly "hardware" which would conclusively prove that unidentified flying objects are extraterrestrial vehicles. Now a growing band of serious researchers are beginning to examine the hitherto ignored occult records for hidden factors which might relate supernatural events to the UFO phenomenon. Some are beginning to suspect that a large part of the phenomenon is actually a terrestrial condition and that many of the objects have either always been based upon this planet or have in some totally incomprehensible method coexisted with us throughout our history. In this current phase, most of the scientifically - oriented Ufologists have attempted to over-simplify the phenomenon and place it within the framework of our contemporary understanding of the physical universe.

Many thousands of people have heard "sharp metallic voices" since General Jackson's wagon came to a dead halt in the hills of Tennessee. These voices have reportedly emanated from the flying saucers, from caves and abandoned buildings, and even from telephones. At the same time, there have been hundreds upon hundreds of reports of automobile and airplane engines suddenly stalling in the presence of UFOs, and countless power failures have been blamed upon the objects.

The "E M Effect"

Ufologists have accepted the speculation that these events are caused by a powerful magnetic field which allegedly surrounds the craft, the theory being that these powerful fields cause the generators of motors to shut down temporarily. In 1967, the Ford Motor Company, working on a grant from Colorado University, conducted experiments with the effect of magnetism on automobile engines. It was concluded that a magnetic field strong enough to stall an average automobile would also necessarily be strong enough to bend and twist the automobile itself.[2] Magnetism alone does not seem to be the answer to this phenomenon.

Certainly a magnetic field would not have had much effect upon the largely wooden wheels of General Jackson's wagon.

In the fall of 1967, a New York television producer, Mr. Dan Drasin, observed an unidentified flying object near Point Pleasant, West Virginia. He attempted to "signal" to the object with a powerful flashlight charged with brand new batteries. The flashlight went out instantly, according to Mr. Drasin, and would not operate again until the object had passed out of sight.[3] In later experiments, I tried to cause a similar flashlight to malfunction by placing it in a powerful magnetic field. The results were negative.

On one occasion, in the spring of 1967, I had observed a UFO in West Virginia, together with other witnesses, and had attempted to photograph it with a battery-operated motion picture camera. The camera would not work. The object remained in view long enough for me to change the battery pack. The camera still would

not work. Again, as soon as the object was gone the camera functioned perfectly.

In another interesting incident, Mr. Willard Henderson of Belpre, Ohio, reportedly observed a large luminous cigar-shaped object hovering above a dam on the Ohio River in the summer of 1967. He directed his auto spotlight at the thing and his light immediately went out. Later, when we inspected the spotlight we discovered that the wiring was inexplicably burnt out . . . suggesting a power surge *which did not effect any other part of the automobile*.[4]

Although magnetism undoubtedly plays some rôle in the mechanics of the flying saucers, it does seem as if there are various other factors involved in the "E M cases".

There is a hillside near Melville, Long Island where UFOs have frequently been observed in the past two years. Teenaged UFO buffs in the area told me that battery-powered cameras and tape recorders refused to function there. I visited the spot several times and discovered that my own equipment failed there, although compasses and magnetic detectors did not reveal any unusual magnetic aberrations.

Telephone and Power Failures

Throughout 1967, there were over 1,000 unexplained telephone failures in the U.S., often involving whole counties. In my interviews with telephone company personnel around the country, I learned that they were baffled because "the wires just don't seem to conduct current". Similarly, when a massive four-state power failure struck the north-east on June 5, 1967, the personnel at the Kittatinny Power Plant in northern New Jersey claimed that their equipment did not shut down but simply stopped "as if it had frozen".[5] The Kittatinny plant was in no way connected with the other power plants which failed at that same time in other states. There had been frequent, almost daily UFO sightings in the Kittatinny mountains throughout that period.

A new "paralysis"

Obviously, the electro-magnetic explanation is not applicable to this kind of incident. In some of these cases, we seem to be dealing with a basic paralysis of electrons. It may even go deeper and involve a temporary alteration in the basic properties of matter.

An intense field of radioactivity could cause electrical drains, but such a field would almost certainly effect the human beings present, and traces of radiation would be left behind in the flashlights, automobiles, etc. There are, of course, many excellent cases in which intense radiation was found at landing sites, but there are relatively few cases in which vehicles or people suffered detectably from such radiation.

To paralyse the flow of electrons in a wire, battery, or flashlight, the conductive properties would have to be altered in some manner. A fierce field of magnetic induction would produce a power surge which would overload the circuit and burn out the equipment. But very few "burnouts" are being reported. Was it coincidental that Mr. Henderson's spotlight burnt out the instant he tried to focus it on a UFO? If the UFO somehow extinguished the light, why wasn't the rest of the wiring in his auto similarly affected? Why wasn't the delicate mechanism of my camera burnt out in a like manner?

Possibly the UFO occupants can direct this *molecular paralysis effect* (MPE) in somewhat the same way that they seem to have been able to paralyse human beings. Perhaps the same device or technique is used on both animate and inanimate objects. General Jackson's wagon wheels may have been "frozen" by the same identical force which brought the massive generators at Kittatinny to a sudden halt. In other words, a basic alteration of physical properties took place in both cases. Magnetism could not have been employed on Jackson's wagon and it may be erroneous for us to assume that magnetism was used at Kittatinny.

If earthly matter is composed of energies from the low end of the electromagnetic spectrum, then perhaps entities composed of energies from the other end of that spectrum might actually have the power to tamper with and alter the physical properties of terrestrial substances. If the matter of our world can be manipulated freely by such entities, then we would have an explanation for many of the manifestations which have always been classified as supernatural. Such entities might conceivably be able to walk through walls . . . and anyone seeing them doing so would automatically regard them as "ghosts".

The numerous cases in which compasses and magnetic instruments have reacted to the presence of the unidentified flying objects have led us to believe in the electromagnetic effect theory. But it all may be *just an effect*, not a cause. We have noted in the U.S. that an unusually high proportion of landings and low-level sightings have occurred in areas of magnetic deviation. We must now ask ourselves if the objects may not merely be taking advantage of such deviations in some manner. The Wanaque reservoir in New Jersey; Kearney, Nebraska; Fisherville, Virginia, are all reputed to be areas of deviating magnetic flux. For want of a better term, I have been calling such areas "windows". It seems to me that such "windows" are constantly employed by the objects.

Owatonna revisited

For example, there were poltergeist manifestations in Owatonna, Minnesota, in 1880.[6] The "airships" of 1897 chose to appear over that same obscure little town.[7] During the "flaps" of 1966-68, there have been several low-level sightings in Owatonna, including some contacts and one "Man In Black" case.[8]

Owatonna, Minnesota, is therefore a "window" area . . . a gateway between our world and one of the alien groups behind the UFO phenomenon. There are many such "windows" all over the world and they can be easily determined through extensive historical research. A study of the Indian lore and myths in "window" areas in the United States has revealed that these peculiar manifestations probably can be traced all the way back, long before the white settlers arrived.

The "E M effect" should be studied in these "window" areas. If that mysterious gateway does exist, we may be able to find it. But we

can never solve the riddle through speculation. Our science is too limited. If the objects are composed of a matter radically different from our own, then we cannot hope to unravel the problem through sciences based upon the physical properties of our known universe. We know that many of the objects are able to move at fantastically high speeds through our atmosphere without displacing the air and producing sonic booms. This, in itself, is a strong clue that the objects could be composed in such a manner that they can pass *between* the molecules of air, just as the entities seem to pass through solid walls in so many cases.

The objects may also take advantage of the magnetic currents and deviations of this planet, riding these currents as a glider rides the updraughts of air surrounding hills. Such a propulsion system is also far beyond our present scientific framework.

As the objects traverse these magnetic currents, they may cause a displacement, as a ship displaces water, and it may be this displacement that our compasses and instruments have been detecting.

The more sophisticated manifestations . . . the car stallings, power failures, and so on, may have nothing to do with electro-magnetism and may not be as accidental as we have led ourselves to believe.

Suppose there was a UFO beyond the hill where General Jackson's wagon halted? And suppose that the entities felt he had to be stopped until the area could be cleared? Just suppose. . . .

NOTES

1 *Haunted People* by Hereward Carrington and Nandor Fodor, pp. 142-172.
2 *Popular Science Monthly*, January 1967.
3 Personal communication.
4 Personal investigation.
5 Personal investigation. Also investigated by Ivan T. Sanderson who lives in the region.
6 *Haunted People* by Carrington and Fodor p. 45.
7 *Mysteries of the Skies* by Gordon Lore and Harold Deneault, p. 24.
8 Personal communication and investigation. Detailed reports on these cases will appear in the author's forthcoming book, *Operation Trojan Horse*.

STRANGE ENCOUNTER IN VAR

By Lyonel Trigano

IN the course of recent investigations, I came across the following very interesting case:

Mr. S. is a businessman who runs an important garage in Herault. Physically, he is a solidly-built man in his fifties, who is quite the opposite of an impressionable person! He told me of the adventure of six years earlier, as I have transcribed below.

"One evening in November 1962 I was driving along a minor departmental road in Var. It was a dark night, and raining in torrents, so that I was driving with my lights full on. Rounding a bend, I saw, 80 metres ahead, a group of figures clustered in the middle of the road. I slowed down to avoid the group, and at the same moment it split into two parts, suddenly and jerkily. My window was down and I leaned my head out slightly to see what was the matter; it was then that I saw beasts, some kind of bizarre animals, with the heads of birds, and covered in some sort of plumage, which were hurling themselves from two sides towards my car.

"Terrified, I wound up the window, accelerated like a madman, and then stopped 150 metres further on. I turned round and saw these things, these beasts, these nightmarish sort of beings, which were heading, with a sort of flapping of wings, towards a luminous dark-blue object which hung in the air over a field on the other side of the road. It resembled two plates upside down, and placed on one another. On reaching it, these 'birds' were literally sucked into the underpart of the machine as if by a whirlwind. Then I heard a dull sound (clac!) and the object flew off at a prodigious speed and finally disappeared."

I should add that the author of this story has told it to a strictly limited number of people, simply for fear of being thought mad. He told me that at that time he had never heard of UFOs, and had never thought of relating these events to the UFO mystery. In spite of the fantastic nature of this story, he swears he did not dream it.

In spite of all my efforts, the witness cannot remember either the exact date or place of the occurrence. Consequently, what I have transcribed is merely a rough recollection.

(Translation by John C. Hugill)

[*M. Lyonel Trigano is a young researcher from the southern part of France, who told me of this alleged encounter when, acting on the suggestion of Aimé Michel, he called on me during a recent visit to England. It is a pity we are unable to pinpoint the time and place of the incident, and that M. Trigano's recollection is only "rough". Nevertheless, I feel that this account is important—especially in view of the "Mothman" incidents of West Virginia reported by John Keel in our July/August edition of 1968, and the Sandling Park, Kent, case of November 1963 (see FSR March/April 1964, and "Few and Far Between" in* THE HUMANOIDS). *I therefore asked the author to set down the details for the record.*—EDITOR.]

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UFOs AND EARTHQUAKES
By Gordon Creighton

PEREIRO is a small town in the State of Ceará in the North-East of Brazil. It lies in a strange crescent-shaped area where, usually every 11 years, at the height of the sunspot-cycle,* devastating droughts occur, killing off large numbers of cattle and forcing the human population to flee into adjacent parts of the country where there is no drought.

Pereiro has been much in the news lately on account of the earth tremors† that have been occurring almost daily since last year both at Pereiro itself and in the nearby hills (Serra dos Macacos or Serra do Frade, both these names being used). The principal geological feature of the region is limestone and the explanation—assuredly the correct one—given for the tremors by the many Brazilian and foreign geologists who have been taking a look at the place lately is that subterranean water-courses have worn great hollows in the limestone, as the result of which settlement and accommodation are inevitably occurring. Nor indeed are 'quakes and tremors unknown to the region. The years 1898, 1909, 1918, were notable for them, and there have been literally hundreds since 1918.

The present spate of tremors seems quite severe. There has been great damage to buildings and a state of near-panic reigns among the 30,000 inhabitants of the region who feel totally abandoned and neglected, and who have petitioned the President of the Republic to do something about their plight. Press reports indicate that many of the local officials seem to have made themselves scarce.

New phenomena reported

But while tremors and 'quakes in the Pereiro region are nothing new, the press reports emanating from there in the period since March of this year contain some features that would appear to be new.

In the first place, tremendous detonations like thunderclaps are now accompanying or following the 'quakes. In the second place, immense bluish-green fiery balls, "twice the size of the Moon", are now being seen flying in all directions overhead. It seems that these "lights" or "balls of fire" only began three years or so ago. They do not appear to have been known during the 'quake years of 1898, 1909, or 1918. Today there must be few among the 30,000 inhabitants who have not seen them. The witnesses repeatedly describe them as "like big automobile headlights" that sometimes stay hovering, sometimes move up or down in the sky, and sometimes shoot about in straight, level flight.

According to the Mayor of Pereiro, the objects are conical in shape, their luminosity is blinding, they travel absolutely silently at fantastic speeds, performing all sorts of manoeuvres, and carry brilliant lights, like searchlights, which are directed downwards on to buildings and the countryside in general. They appear regularly every night, *and are frequently seen to land*, though generally in inaccessible spots in the dense *caatinga* thorn scrub.

Among the countless witnesses is the chairman of one of the municipal councils. While on horseback one night in mid-July 1968, in the region of the Serra dos Macacos, he saw a large greenish light. At first, unable to find any other explanation, he decided it must be a truck being loaded with cotton by the farmers, but he soon perceived that the light was coming from a huge object floating above the tops of the trees. He watched it while it flew around over several farms, finally vanishing behind a crest. Earlier in July whole groups of the fiery objects had been seen. On one occasion one of them flew low over Pereiro, shone a vivid beam of light upon the tower of the principal church, and produced a general panic in the town.

Beams of light projected before landing

There is almost invariably one object that is much larger than the rest. This larger one shoots a beam of light down on to the ground "like a great searchlight, or like a beam from a lighthouse". The other luminous objects, all smaller, remain higher up in the sky than the big one. Then the big one will land, while the smaller ones still remain overhead, sometimes moving about and sometimes dimming their brightness. Then, suddenly, all of them, big and small together, shoot away together, straight up into the sky and are gone.

By August 15 of this year the reports out of Pereiro were emphasising that it had now been established as definite that the appearance of these luminous objects overhead always precedes the tremors by a few hours. It is certain, the populace say, that "the balls of fire seem to know where and when the 'quakes are coming".

Mendoza too

The other piece of evidence which I have to give comes from

* Scientific proof of the strange link between the droughts in the State of Ceará and the eleven-year sunspot-cycle was provided by the Englishman Lt.-Col. Francis R. Hull, R.E., Ret'd, who was my Vice-Consul for that part of Brazil some eighteen years ago. He made a very remarkable study of these matters and I know that many of the Brazilian officials were impressed with the correctness of his findings.

† Many people already realise that (as the Aztecs knew!) there is considerable evidence for a link between sunspots and earthquakes, and that the latter are therefore *probably* (*at least partly*) *due to magnetic changes*.

As it happens, we are now approaching a sunspot maximum (Feb. 1969?), so perhaps there is a case for arguing that the Ceará tremors and the Ceará droughts are also interlinked? In periods of drought the hollowed out cavities in the limestone would be more empty and thus more liable to crumble.

Argentina where the city of Mendoza, right up on the flanks of the Andes, has often figured in UFO reports in recent years. The Buenos Aires illustrated magazine *Gente Y La Actualidad* (September 5, 1968) has an article regarding recent encounters with UFO entities in the Mendoza region, and these are dealt with elsewhere in FSR in a separate article. What struck me as extraordinarily interesting and relevant to the present issue was that the article began by saying that of course UFO sightings in the Mendoza area did not begin recently, but "the history of the UFOs at Mendoza is almost as long as the history of Mendoza itself". For the whole thing started with the earthquake that destroyed the village of Mendoza (as it then was) during the 19th century. Documents of the period show that some days before the catastrophe strange objects were seen moving through the skies overhead.

And, the article continues, much the same has happened in the years since then, in the present century. For example, ten years ago, inhabitants of the region of Puente del Inca, where a series of avalanches occurred, had reported that strange things were seen overhead some days beforehand. With the passage of time, nobody any longer remembered these things, "until just two months ago, when once again the UFOs showed themselves over Mendoza in a most emphatic fashion and, once again, though this time without such grave results, a powerful earthquake shook the city, bringing the Mendozans streaming out of the cinemas on to the streets half way through the film."

Sources:
1 *Folha da Tarde*, São Paulo, March 23, 1968.
2 *Diário de São Paulo*, March 26, 1968.
3 *Diário da Noite*, São Paulo, July 7, 1968.
4 *Diário da Noite* São Paulo, July 20, 1968.
5 *Folha da Tarde*, Pôrto Alegre, August 6, 1968.
6 *Correio do Povo*, Pôrto Alegre, August 15, 1968.
7 *Jornal do Brasil*, Rio de Janeiro, August 20, 1968.
8 *Gente Y La Actualidad*, Buenos Aires, September 5, 1968.
9 Letter dated August 30, 1968, to Gordon Creighton from Sr. Jáder U. Pereira.

Our thanks and credits to Mr. Nigel Rimes of São Paulo for items 1, 2, 3, 4; to Sr. Jáder U. Pereira of Pôrto Alegre for items 5, 6 and 9; to Mme. Rose-Marie de Argaez of Rio de Janeiro for item 7 (forwarded to FLYING SAUCER REVIEW via M. Aimé Michel); and to Señor Guillermo J. Gainza Paz of Buenos Aires for item 8.

Humanoids encountered at La Baleia

(*continued from page 11*)

of 2·30 *metres* and then a sort of *lift emerged from its base, almost to the ground. Inside it there was a man,* 1 metre 70 centimetres in height, who, approaching, gently drew the witness from his hiding-place and calmed him by stroking his head in a friendly manner. *The clothing of the strange being looked like a diver's suit, fitting the body closely; it seemed to be made of plastic.* Entering the disc with the entity, the motorcyclist observed that there were five or six men in there dressed in the same manner and sitting in front of panels of instruments. An extraordinary light filled the cabin, and there was a series of square portholes which, strangely enough, he had not been able to see from outside. Then the motorcyclist was escorted out again, towards his machine. His companion placed a hand on his shoulder, as though in a farewell gesture, and then *re-entered the lift, which then rapidly rose up into the saucer.*[11]

The Rio Pardo Case[12]

On a night in June 1959, three citizens of São Paulo, hunting alligators on the Rio Pardo river, in Mato Grosso, saw a luminous object approach and stop at a distance of 100 metres from them. It was 60 metres in diameter, with a metallic surface. Slowly *a cone was projected from the centre of the under-surface*, reaching a length of 40 metres and coming down to 5 metres from the tops of the trees. The sketch made by the investigator Ruppert Kiener shows the projection as being quasi-cylindrical, giving the UFO the general shape of a mushroom.

C. Cases remote in time, in neighbouring areas

The frequency of reports of close approaches or landings of UFOs in the Belo Horizonte area is increasing. CICOANI have been able to document four alleged cases of landings in the urban district of Belo Horizonte from 1963 onwards. The only one that seems to have some correspondence with the Baleia Case is that of Sagrada Familia, "The One-Eyed Man of Belo Horizonte",[13] which has already been the subject of a special report. This case, according to the statements of the witnesses, involves the presence of four individuals over 2 metres high, one of them walking in the garden of a house. Three children describe the giants as having only one round eye, without any white part (sclerotica), in the centre of the head.

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PERSONAL RECOMMENDATION

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LANDING AT BOTUCATU

By Nigel Rimes

Mr. Rimes, representative of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW in Brazil, is an Englishman who teaches English in Sao Paulo. He served in the Royal Air Force from 1953 to 1958, and has held British and Paraguayan private pilot's licences. In February 1959 he went to Paraguay on a visit and, apart from one trip back to England, has been in South America ever since. His report from Botucatu is another of the excellent and detailed accounts that we are receiving from Argentina and Brazil.

DURING the summer of 1968 two Brazilian newspapers, the *Correio de Botucatu* (July 7) and the *Brazil Herald* (July 17), carried reports that a saucer had landed in broad daylight, in full view of a large hospital, and only a few hundred metres from it, at Rubião Junior, some six kilometres outside the quiet and pleasant little town of Botucatu in the State of Sao Paulo. Botucatu is some 248 kilometres to the north-west of São Paulo, where I live and work, and—an interesting point to note—only 96 kilometres from Baurú, where José Higgins allegedly had a close encounter with decidedly alien beings on July 23, 1947 (see Gordon Creighton's *The Humanoids in Latin America*, Case No. 1, FSR Special, THE HUMANOIDS). Moreover José Higgins' account of the large metallic craft with a rim and standing on curved legs has much in common with the description of what was seen at Botucatu.

The actual date of the Botucatu landing was given as Monday, July 1, 1968, and the machine was said to have been seen in flight by numerous witnesses and in particular by some boys, who watched it take off at about 12.30 p.m., followed by a trail of white smoke in the sky and leaving behind on the ground some clearly visible marks of which the first-mentioned newspaper published a very good photograph.

Having put through a preliminary phone call to the Botucatu paper and secured their confirmation that something unusual had indeed taken place, we made arrangements for an investigatory trip, but we were not able to get away from São Paulo until early on the morning of Sunday, July 21, three weeks from the date of the landing. Our party consisted of Professor and Senhora Willy Wirz of SBEVD, Sr. Geraldo Luciano, and myself representing FSR and SBEDV.

Reaching Botucatu after a five-hour drive, we were given a most friendly welcome at the office of the newspaper, which also operates one of the two local radio stations. Sr. Plinio Paganini, the director of the company, gave us a quick rundown on the story, played us a taped interview with one of the witnesses, and arranged for the reporter who had originally covered the story to accompany us in our investigations and in our talks with witnesses.

The main witness

The witnesses who saw the landed saucer were three boys who were sitting on the main gate of the large Clínicas Hospital. This hospital, owned by the F.C.M.B.B.,* is at Rubião Junior, some 6 km. to the west of Botucatu. The boys are: (1) Fernandinho, aged 12, son of Captain João Batista de Campos Lima, Commandant of the 6th Independent Company of the Força Pública (i.e. State Police) stationed in Botucatu; (2) Waltinho, aged 11, son of Sr. Walter de Souza, Administrator of the F.C.M.B.B.; and (3) Valentinho or Valcinho, aged 8. While playing and climbing on to the hospital gate, they suddenly perceived an object standing at a spot which, when measured later, proved to be about 350 metres to the west of them. The saucer (a large one "as big as a house": our investigation showed it might have been about 8 metres wide), had a large tripod undercarriage and a ladder reaching down to the ground.

The first reaction of the boys was one of stunned shock, but they started to yell as they saw the machine retract its tripod, ladder, and rise into the air. After a brief vertical climb to the height of a few metres, it made off, over their heads, towards the centre of Botucatu, at high speed, reaching a great altitude after only a few seconds.

The noise and other witnesses

Alerted by their shouts, Senhora Eloá de Souza, the mother of Waltinho, looked out from a window of her house, and saw the saucer, moving at great speed and now completely enveloped in white smoke. Several members of the Hospital staff and one of the teachers in the Faculty of Medicine (attached to the Hospital) also saw it. Most of the witnesses say that they heard no sound from the craft, but the three boys said there was an extraordinary "tinging sound on a high note" which they found it impossible to describe or to compare with anything known to them.

One of the most impressive of the other accounts given to the newspaper by witnesses was that of a retired lady teacher named Dona Nair de Melo Rodrigues whose home is near the Hospital. For it now transpires that at about 11.50 a.m. on the day in question, that is to say some 40 minutes before the boys were to see the grounded saucer in the Hospital precincts, Dona Nair happened to step outside her house and beheld, flying quite low, "something different from an aircraft, without wings, circular, of a grey colour, with a dome on top and another dome beneath, quite silent, and travelling with its fore-part inclined slightly towards the ground."

Being preoccupied with her housework, the good lady apparently did not pay too much heed to this phenomenon at first, but a little later she observed to her sister, Dona Nazaré: "If I'm not crazy, I tell you I saw a flying saucer!" She thereafter gave no more thought to the matter.

It is of the greatest importance to note that the object seen by Dona Nair was heading precisely towards the Hospital, and we may therefore conclude that it landed and was on the ground there for more than half an hour before the boys saw its departure.

At the time of our visit Dona Nair was away on holiday, but we saw her sister Dona Nazaré, who gave us these details.

Two other witnesses (not named, so far as we could ascertain) were also said to have seen a disc-shaped object pass over Botucatu at about 11.50 a.m. leaving a trail of smoke.

Marks in the ground

We heard of another important piece of testimony that had come from a student named Antônio Alegre (whom, however, we also failed to locate but whom we hope to see when we re-visit Botucatu in the near future). It seems that whereas the three little boys did not actually find

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* Note (by G. Creighton): I am afraid I do not know what the letters stand for.

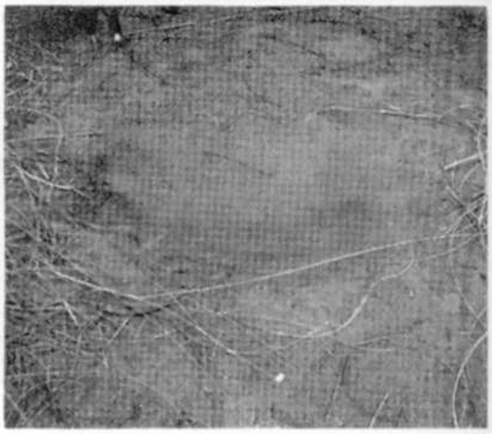
Boys mark pod marks 2 and 3, picture taken facing West.
Note ladder marks centre right.

Facing West. General view hospital grounds. Landing site centre camera, on approx. level of boy's eyes.

Waltinho centre, Fernandindo right, facing east.

Children mark the positions of tripod and ladder depressions.

Pod mark No. 2. East.



the marks left by the saucer until early next day, Antônio Alegre examined the spot soon after the machine had gone. As he told the authorities and the newspapers, he found marks, forming an isosceles triangle, with two sides measuring roughly 6 metres and the third side 7 metres. (We measured for ourselves and found the sides actually to be 6·8, 7 and 5·45 metres, as shown in my sketch, Fig. 4). The student said that the marks as he found them were deep and could not possibly have been made by any manual instruments.

When we called upon Captain Lima of the Police (father of the eldest boy, Fernandinho) we learnt that Captain Lima had told the reporters that the boys had been badly shaken by their experience, to such an extent indeed that, for a while, they had seemed to lose all notion of time. For the whole of the rest of the day they were nervous and apprehensive, and their parents were all worried about it.

When we arrived at Captain Lima's residence we found two of the boys there, namely his son Fernandinho and Waltinho de Souza. In the short interval before Captain Lima's arrival I was therefore able to question the boys myself. Fernandinho I found most co-operative, but at one point I began to wonder whether Waltinho had not been told to keep quiet about their experience.

Descriptions of the object

The first thing that I did was to sketch six different types of UFO (see Fig. 1). Both boys promptly identified type No. 1 as corresponding to what they had seen. And this is well borne out by Fig. 2, which is a drawing that had already been made by Fernandinho for his father on the evening of July 1, the day of the sighting.

Both boys agreed that the saucer was of a shining grey colour and that the luminosity came from the machine itself and was not reflected sunlight. Fernandinho said that the only sound he had heard was the high-pitched "ting-ting-ting", but I had the feeling that the other boy, Waltinho, had not actually heard this sound himself.

Unquestionably the most interesting point made by these two boys was that, just before the take-off, the cupola of the saucer opened up, "splitting down the middle, and the halves sliding to each side", revealing a brilliant white light. The cupola closed again almost immediately, as soon as the craft had left the ground, but the cupola still continued to glow white. The underside of the craft emitted a reddish glow.

Captain Lima himself then gave us his full account of the whole affair, as he had managed to piece it together. As mentioned above, he described in detail the psychological reactions of the boys after their experience. The account that he gave us corroborated in all respects the version given by the reporter of the local newspaper.

At the landing site

Captain Lima accompanied us on our next visit, which was to the Clínicas Hospital. We found that the spot where the saucer had stood was some 350 metres from the main gate on which the boys had been sitting. The spot (see sketch) lies on the edge of an area of level ground right in front of the hospital building, which is three storeys high and about 100 metres long. There is a line of eucalyptus† trees which runs from north to south, and the saucer had landed in a gap in this line of trees. The soil at the spot was sandy but hard packed, except for the surface dust, and covered with sparse coarse grass. No scorch-marks were visible to us, but of course three weeks had elapsed. Captain Lima told us however that on July 3, two days after

the landing, "a smell of gunpowder still pervaded the area".

By this time the site had been visited by a large number of people. Nevertheless, the marks of the tripod landing-gear and the ladder were still clearly visible (see Fig. 4), though the ladder-marks were much impaired. The land slopes away slightly towards the north at this point, with a drop of 20 cm. in 7 metres. The clearest of the three landing-gear "pod-marks" was the one at the lowest point, i.e. towards the north. We found it to be 30 cm. in diameter and 5 cm. deep at the centre. The foot of the "pod" was not exactly round, but was slightly conical. The soil in the base of the depression was packed down very hard, and could not be marked by pressure with the fingers despite the heavy rain the night before and the elapse of 20 days. There is no doubt in my mind that the depressions could only have been produced by tremendous pressure, certainly not the sort of pressure that three boys might have been able to bring to bear.

A further point of interest is that the northerly depression lay right in the middle of a patch of grass, but there was no sign of the stalks having been pressed into the ground. The roots however were still there. The other two "pod-marks" had been somewhat filled in by scuffed sand, but both were still clearly defined. The one to the south-east was also 30 cm. across and 5 cm. deep. The third one, on the south, was slightly smaller—28 cm. by 4 cm.—and did not appear to have supported so much weight as the one on the north.

According to Sr. Walter de Souza, whom we were to interview later, the marks made by the base of the ladder were originally rectangular. At first he gave their size as 15 cm. long and 10 cm. deep, but later scaled the length down to 10 cm. When we measured them we found them to be depressions 15 cm. across and 4 cm. deep. These ladder marks lay on the westerly or longest side of the isosceles triangle formed by the three "pod-marks", as Fig. 4 shows.

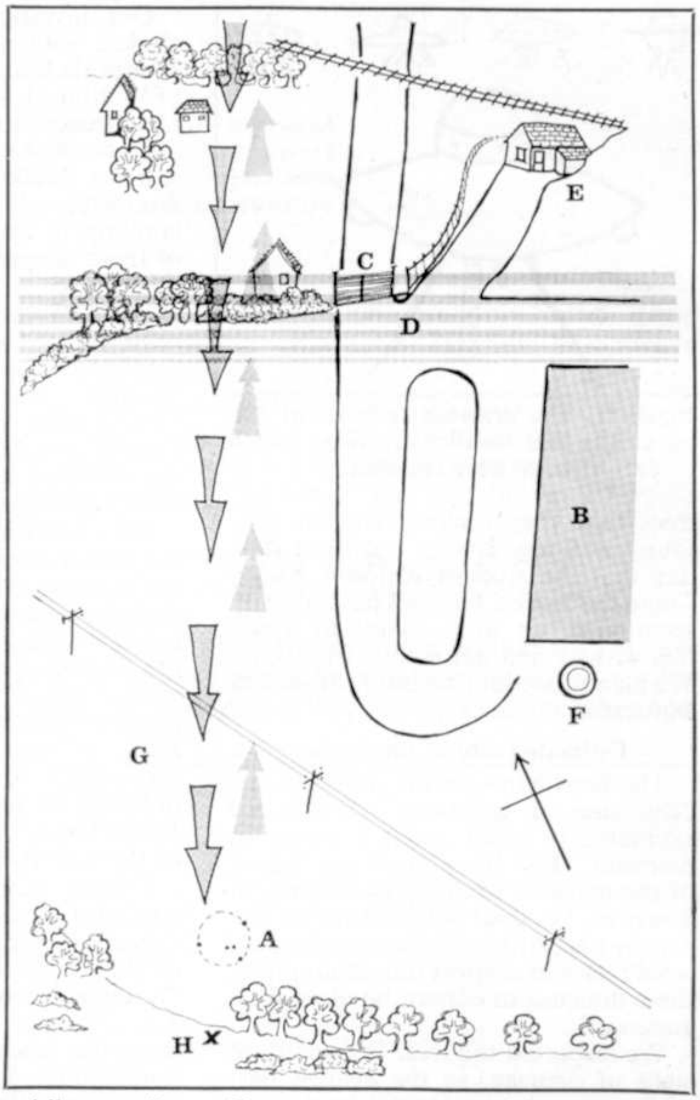
One point which was how worrying us was that, as we found, the main gate of the Hospital was not visible from where we stood at the landing site. The boys' story was that they were sitting on the gate when they caught sight of the saucer. Our investigations showed that the top of the gate was some 2ft. below the level of the eaves of the nearby house, so it is just possible that the boys could in fact have seen the tripod feet while actually in contact with the ground. Even so, I still think that this is rather unlikely. However, in order to describe and draw the "pods", these must have been visible to the boys at some stage. Perhaps this can be accounted for by Fernandinho's statement about the take-off. He said that the cupola opened and then closed, the tripod was retracted and lastly, as the saucer hovered, the ladder was slowly drawn up.

† Note (by G. Creighton): The Australian eucalyptus trees have been widely introduced in certain parts of Brazil.

Sketch map of the area.

Key

A. Landing site.
B. Hospital.
C. The gate.
D. Shaded area is out o view from landing site.
E. Sr. Walter Souza's house.
F. Water tower.
G. Passage of UFO shown, over ground recently levelled by earth movers. Hard-packed sandy soil with sparse clumps of coarse grass.
H. Site of horse's bones.



Reactions of the boys

The fact that the boys were badly frightened and shocked by what they saw may well account for the slight discrepancies in their stories. Fernandinho stated that Waltinho and Valentinho climbed down off the gate and ran away as the machine was taking off. He on the other hand stayed where he was, unable to move or shout. The other two boys said the saucer flew off towards the east (i.e. in the direction from which it had originally come according to Dona Nair de Melo Rodrigues). If this is correct, then the saucer must have passed almost over, or very near to the gate. However we were unable to get anything out of the boys on this score. It would appear that the shock of seeing the saucer on the ground and then seeing it take off has left Fernandinho with a memory blank about the machine's passage overhead. There is however their very emphatic statement that it made a "tinging" sound. Was this while it was on the ground, or as it hovered, or as it flew past or over them? And could this sound have been heard at the distance of 350 metres? Unfortunately we possess no information as to wind-direction and so on on the day of the landing. But we did note that the clanking of passing trains on the main line (500 metres away) could be heard very clearly from the landing site.

The tree beside the landing site was about 8 metres high. From the gate of the Hospital we were able to see some 4 to 5 metres of the top part of this tree. The boys said that the tree had waved about violently as the saucer left the ground, and at first they had thought the saucer was on the far side of the tree. In fact, when the three boys and Sr. Walter de Souza first searched for the landing site, it was behind the

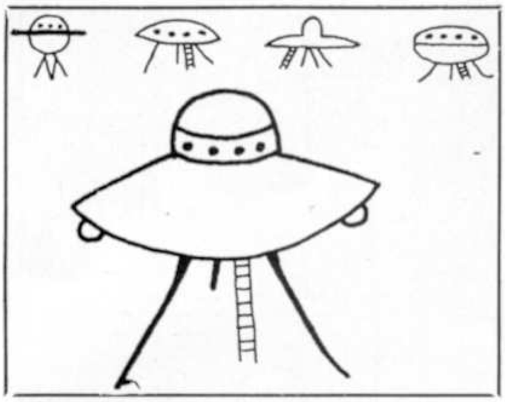


Figure 1. The drawing selected by the boys. The four smaller drawings shown above were rejected.

trees that they looked, and so they found nothing. It was not until next day that the student Antônio Alegre found the marks, but, as I have already mentioned, we were unable to locate this witness and get details from him. We plan to see him on our next visit to Botucatu.

Estimated size of the saucer

The boys had said the machine was "the size of a house", which we estimated to mean about 8 metres in diameter. The boys gave the height of the machine's cupola as also about 8 metres, i.e. level with the top of the nearby tree. Although the tripod marks would tend to support this assumption, these dimensions cannot be more than guesswork.

We inspected the tree. It showed no signs of damage, so the nearest part of the saucer's rim cannot have overlapped the most southerly "pod-mark" by more than a metre.

Our investigation of the site concluded with an interview with Sr. Walter de Souza and his wife (parents of Waltinho). They confirmed what we had already heard from Captain Lima and from the reporter Sr. Carlos Alberto Melluro (of the *Correio de Botucatu*) about other reports of landings in the vicinity. I give details of these alleged landings at the end of this article.

Winding up our visit, we then returned to the radio station and listened to a second tape-recording of Sr. Plinio Paganini's interviews with Fernandinho and with his parents, Captain and Sra. Lima. We noted that the contents agreed in every respect with what we had just learned.

We intend to return to Botucatu in the near future to carry out a further and fuller investigation and, if possible, interview the witnesses whom we had failed to see, such as Dona Nair and the student Antônio Alegre. As it was we had found that the task was far too much to get through in only one day. For the fact that we were able to accomplish so much we are entirely indebted to the help given us by Sr. Plinio Paganini and Sr. C. A. Melluro of the newspaper and radio company.

I have reserved till the end one curious fact that may or may not be connected with the landing. In view of the American report of the horse "Snippy" it must certainly be recorded. Just over the bank towards the west from the landing site I found several horse bones. There was a tibia with a few pieces of flesh (now dried) attached, and a left upper jawbone complete with teeth. There was no sign of the rest of the skeleton. One might wonder what the bones of a *horse* would be doing inside the grounds of a hospital? Perhaps we did not pay enough attention to this point?

Other recent reports of saucer landings or sightings in the area

1. We learnt that not long ago a lawyer was driving at night along the road to Baurú when he saw a landed saucer to one side of the highway. He did not stop. The sighting was confirmed by another driver who passed that way a few minutes later. This incident was subsequent to the case at the Clínicas Hospital at Botucatu.

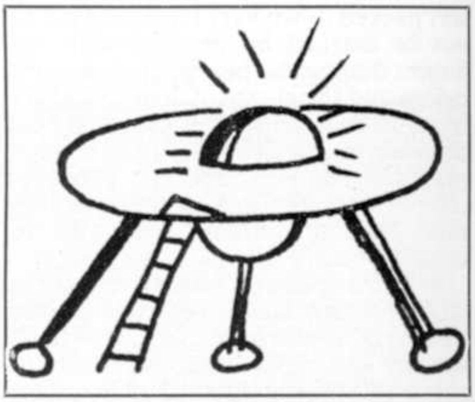


Figure 2. Fernandinho's drawing, done for his father on the day of the sighting.

2. A farmer and his wife, named Zuccre, of the Fazenda Paula Souza, saw a saucer flying above their car one night. Suddenly it described a curve in front of them, and landed to one side of the road. As it passed in front of the car, the car's engine died. Sr. Zuccre aimed his headlights at the object, which at once took off at high speed and vanished.

3. Some time ago, the school bus of the Rubião Junior School was paced by a flying saucer at very low altitude for a distance of several kilometres. The children were all terrified, many of them screaming and crying for their mothers.

4. It was stated, in the article about the Botucatu landing in the *Correio de Botucatu* of July 7, that an employee of the F.C.M.B.B. had informed their reporter that a few days previously a local farmer and his son had been sitting in front of their house after dinner, when they suddenly saw a large disc-shaped machine descend without a sound behind a nearby grove of eucalyptus trees. Going to the spot, they found nothing. Being unable to prove the reality of what they had seen, they had decided at first to keep quiet about it, so as not to be regarded as liars or lunatics. Now, however, encouraged by the report of the Botucatu landing they felt more ready to talk.

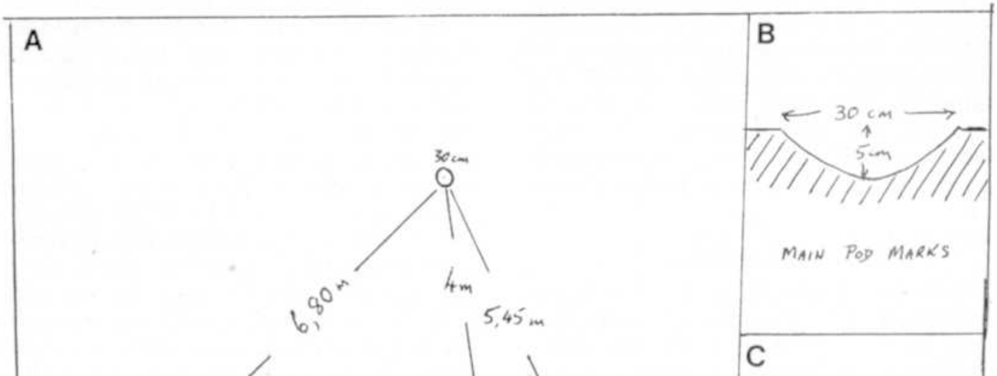


Figure 4. Tripod and "ladder" marks as sketched by the author.

THE UFOSCOPE

In our September/October 1966 edition we published the account of an unusual sighting by two Harwell scientists, one of whom, Peter Wroath, sent us the report which we published. Mr. Wroath tells us that one of a small group of Harwell scientists interested in the UFO phenomenon has built a Ufoscope, and he sent us this report. The author wishes to remain anonymous.

A UFOSCOPE is an efficient piece of apparatus for securing good scientific evidence of the nature of UFOs. What constitutes such evidence? Since the appearance of a UFO is a random phenomenon, as far as any individual observer is concerned, the best that can be expected is a chance observation of a distant object. The evidence must therefore be a photograph. There are plenty of UFO pictures but they all suffer from the grave drawback of having no means of establishing the size of the object photographed and usually consist of huge enlargements of a tiny image obtained with an ordinary camera.

With these considerations in mind a specification for a Ufoscope can be written down as follows:

(*a*) It must produce a comparatively large, good quality photographic image. It is thus basically a telescope equipped for photography.

(*b*) It must be easily transportable, because you never know when or where the UFO will show up.

(*c*) There must be some means of range finding so that the true size of an object can be obtained from its apparent size.

(*d*) It must be very fast in use—the observer must be able to set it up in under a minute, line up, focus and shoot in seconds.

(*e*) It must be reasonably simple and cheap because Ufology looks like being an amateur activity for some time to come. The ideal Ufoscope is a Questar telescope,

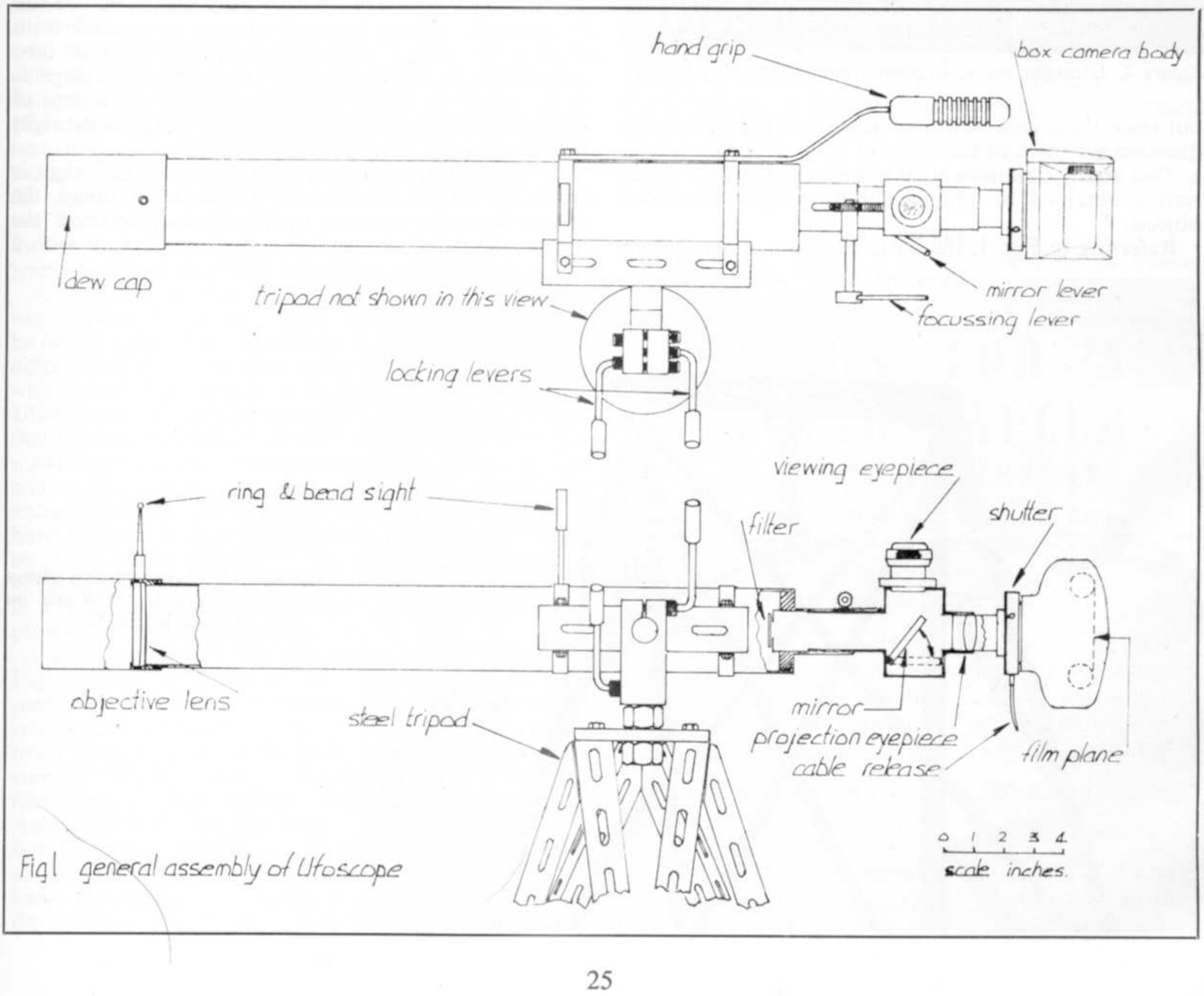


Fig 1 general assembly of Ufoscope

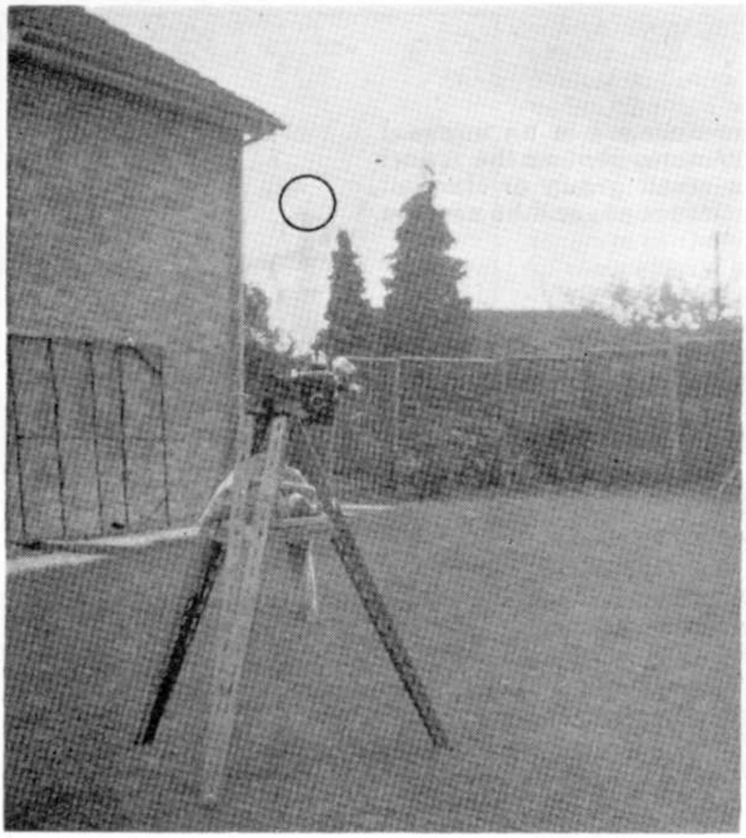


Figure 2. Ufoscope set up to photograph pylon 300 yds away

but since these cost well over £300 they are out of the question for most of us.

This article describes such a device and shows some results obtained by photographing distant terrestrial objects.

Referring to Fig. 1, the basic elements of the system are as follows:

1. A simple refractor telescope. This consists of a 2⅞in. diameter achromatic objective of 27in. focal length and a ⅝in. focal length eyepiece. These lenses were purchased from Messrs. H. W. English some years ago for £5. Used as a simple astronomical telescope the basic magnification is about 40.

2. The telescope is set up for photography by the eyepiece projection method (see, for example, the excellent article by P. D. Wroath.)* The camera is a second-hand box camera purchased from the local photographic shop for 5 shillings. The lens and shutter have been removed and an old Compur shutter substituted as shown in Fig. 1.

3. For view finding and focusing a second eyepiece is used at right angles to the telescope optical axis in conjunction with a hinged 45° surface aluminised mirror, as shown. This eyepiece (cadged from P. D. Wroath) is about the same focal length as the first one. The camera, mirror and both eyepieces are mounted on a draw tube with rack and pinion focussing. The lenses are set up so that an object in focus through the viewing eyepiece is also in focus on the photographic film. The image on the film is slightly larger than in the view-finder and the field of view slightly smaller (restricted by film size), but roughly what you see you photograph. Since we are mostly concerned with objects "at infinity", a scratch mark on the draw tube was made to show its position when the image is accurately in focus on the film. Another advantage of viewing through a mirror is that the image is the right way up (though reversed left to right).

4. For aiming, a simple ring and bead gun sight is used. To take a picture, the telescope is aimed, the object brought into the field of view, focused, the mirror flipped down and the shutter operated with a

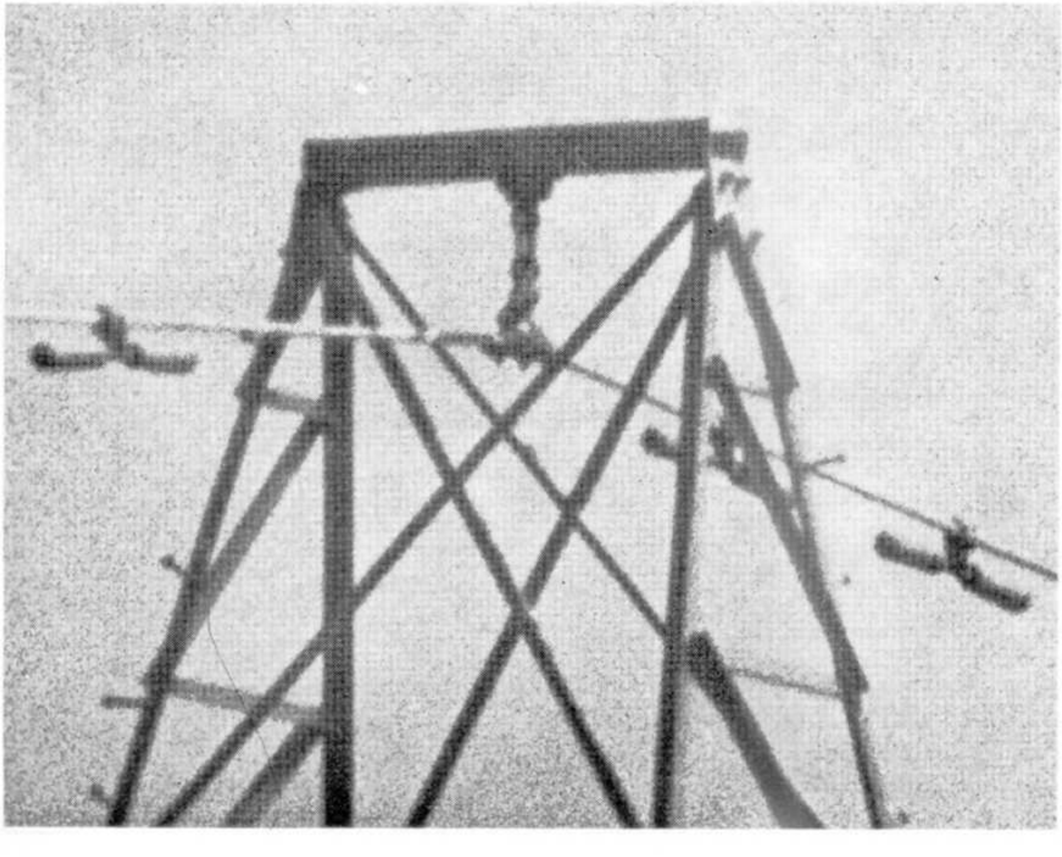


Figure 3. Ufoscope picture of top few feet of pylon. 1/100 sec. on Kodak Royal X.

cable release. The exposure has to be guessed—see below. Those people with a single lens reflex camera and through-the-lens-metering could use this and take the guesswork out.

5. The whole equipment is mounted on a very rigid tripod. The importance of this cannot be over-emphasised. No matter how good the optics, if the mounting is shaky, a poor photograph will result. It was decided that a folding tripod wasn't good enough and would take too long to erect, so a completely rigid one was made from steel "Handy Angle" (purchased as scrap from the local Radio Club at 4d. a foot). The right-angled viewing arrangement is very convenient and means that the tripod can be quite low (3ft. 6in.) which makes for rigidity. The telescope is mounted on a brass block drilled to take two $\frac{3}{4}$in. diameter steel shafts at right angles. The block is partly split so that the bearings can be tightened up quickly to lock the movement.

6. The weight of the telescope is 14 lb. and that of the tripod 36 lb.—just portable by a reasonably fit person. The apparatus will fit in the back of a car.

7. It was discovered during early trials, rather to the author's surprise, that apparatus painted black cannot be seen at night. To overcome this the gun sight is painted white and illuminated by low-power lamps, as are the camera shutter and pan. window.

8. The question of rangefinding is one of the most difficult. At present it is necessary to have two observations from widely separated points, ideally by two Ufoscopes taking simultaneous photographs. The next best thing is one Ufoscope and a well-witnessed observation of bearing and altitude from a distant point. If the object is stationary for some time the same Ufoscope can be transported between two observation points, though one then has to assume that one is photographing the same object which has not moved.

9. Although it was stated above that the exposure was "guessed", this isn't quite as bad as it sounds! A lot of experience has now been built up in photographing different sorts of objects in different conditions of light with various films. Since the equivalent f-number of the Ufoscope is 5.6, the photographers among us will know that this means long exposures or a very fast film. For a moving object the exposure must be short anyhow, and it has turned out that a fast film gives quite acceptable results. Both Ilford HPS and Kodak Royal X have been used. Typical exposures are around 1/100th sec. for a sunlit object to 1/5th sec. for an office block lit up at night and about a mile away. Fortunately there is a wide latitude for exposure in black and white photography for our purposes.

As an example of the capabilities of the Ufoscope, Fig. 2 shows the equipment set up in the author's back garden to photograph a transmission line tower which is about 300 yards away. Fig. 3 is the top few feet of the tower photographed with the Ufoscope with an exposure of 1/100th on Kodak Royal film (ASA 1250). The film is grainy, of course, but negative quality is adequate. An example of a moving object is shown in Fig. 4. This is a Ufoscope picture of a Tiger Moth at a range of about 2 miles (since we know the size of this object, we know the range). Comparing Fig. 3 and Fig. 4 we see the adverse effects of poor daytime "seeing", i.e. reduction in image quality and contrast by haze, hot-air turbulence, etc. Both Fig. 3 and Fig. 4 were obtained by using a yellow filter and it will be seen from Fig. 1 that the Ufoscope incorporates means of quickly changing filters.

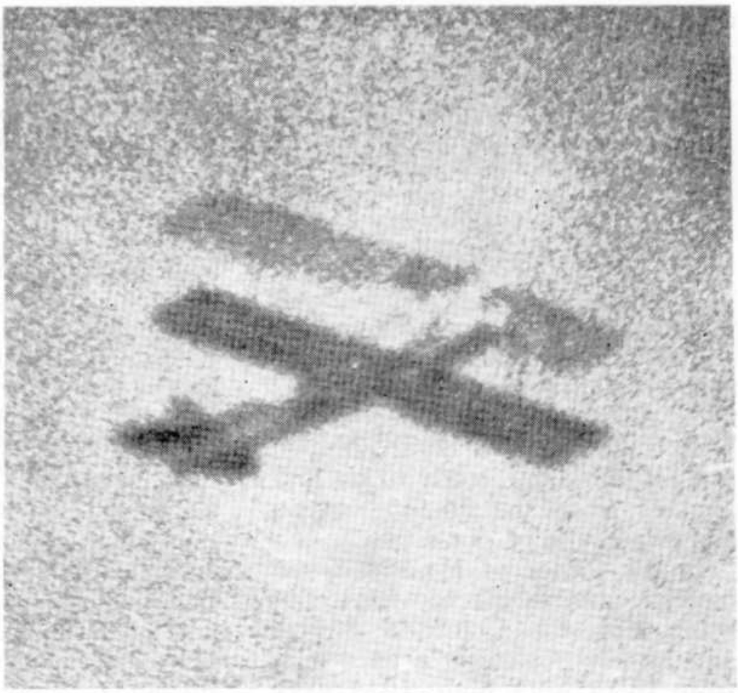


Figure 4. Ufoscope picture of Tiger Moth at a range of 2 miles.

It would be nice to be able to finish this article with a clinching UFO picture, but unfortunately, so far, we have had no luck.

REFERENCE

* Wroath, P. D.: Methods in astrophotography for the amateur. *J.Brit.Astron.Ass.*, 77(6) 408 (June 1967).

DESIGN FOR A FLYING SAUCER

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Mr. R. H. B. Winder's brilliant four-part article *Design for a Flying Saucer* (see FSR, Vol. 12, No. 6; Vol. 13, Nos. 1, 2, 3) has now been issued as a single reprint.

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THE COMPUTING PROJECT AT IMPERIAL COLLEGE

By D. J. Pearson

IT is found that, at the end of this academic year, the computing activity at Imperial College has fallen far short of what was hoped. This is due to two main failures, one attributable directly to us, and another, by far the most important, completely out of our control.

In the winter of 1967-68, when first tentative contacts were being made with the Colorado project and hopes of gaining a data tape from them were high, IBM were asked for some computing time on the Imperial College 7094 computer. This was generously granted and the organisation required to make use of this was set up. Tony Wickham started to arrange with Professor Saunders of the Colorado project for the transfer of data, and Chris Pierce started to arrange the evaluation and coding of British reports.

Slowly, however, it became apparent that things were going wrong. A Colorado data tape did not appear and finally communications with them broke down completely. The evaluation and coding at Imperial College was progressing painfully slowly and there was no sign of getting a statistically meaningful sample before June. Finally it was heard that reorganisations had occurred within the Condon committee, and that our link man, Saunders, was no longer available.

It cannot be stressed too strongly how important the Colorado data is to our project. With it, important results can be built up, whilst without it any experiments we make are likely to be rather fatuous. With this in mind, Tony Wickham wrote to the project coordinator, Bob Low, and after waiting a month for his reply, it is now expected that a data tape will be sent to us near the time of publication of the report, September 1968.

In spite of all this delay, one statistically important programme has been run on the 7094. Jacques Vallée has produced striking evidence of the correlation of waves of sightings and the oppositions of Mars. I decided to check these results with British, rather than French, data. With the help of Bernard Wignall, who provided me with the dates of some 1,500 British sightings, I wrote a programme to do a time series analysis of the data. I correlated this with the distance from Mars in astronomical units and was, I must admit, slightly surprised to find that there was indeed a marked correlation as Vallée had claimed. There seemed to be a phase shift of about six weeks between the two approximately sinusoidal curves. The analysis was over a period of about 15 years and contained about eight of these maxima superimposed upon a general noise level.

I am still far from convinced by these results as the data was quite unprocessed and can hardly be claimed to be a large enough sample. Because of this, and also because the data was on a national rather than on a global scale, I am unwilling to make further conjecture. However, if and when the data from Colorado arrives, this will make a very important experiment. Any time series trends on a global scale would, of course, immediately eliminate such restricted explanations as Venus, newspaper publicity, etc.

The above programme used one simple parameter—the date of a sighting. Under normal evaluation, perhaps twenty parameters would be available and so many different programmes could be run to test widely differing theories. These vary from geographic and temporal patterns and trends to the automatic weighting of sightings and an evaluation of sightings from a subjective, rather than from an objective, point of view. So that, as well as the typical UFO, a typical observer can also be constructed. Between these two extremes the tracking of a single UFO over perhaps days or weeks is a possibility once all background noise has been eliminated.

Finally, it was stated when the project was first announced that there would be a facility for everybody to test theories. So, as I am now in the process of constructing the first master programme, any ideas which you would like testing, and which are possible to code in some form, should be sent to me:

David J. Pearson,
Centre for Computing and Automation,
Imperial College,
London SW7.

UFOs PAST AND PRESENT

By Donald B. Hanlon

AMID the rash of UFO books, periodicals, and "overnight experts" which have been particularly evident in America this past year, it is refreshing to note the appearance of two very worthy publications: **UFOs Over the Americas** by Jim and Coral Lorenzen—Signet, 75c.—and **Mysteries of the Skies** by Gordon Lore Jr. and Harold Deneault Jr.—Prentice Hall, $5.95.

For the Lorenzens it is the third in a series of very successful paperbacks (*Flying Saucers 1966* and *Flying Saucer Occupants 1967*). In **UFOs Over the Americas** the directors of APRO present a thorough and comprehensive review of the events of 1967. They record a good number of landings, many with occupants. The Lorenzens gleaned much of the material in this book from a tour of six South American countries which they visited in the summer of 1967.

In many of the South American reports (and in two North American reports) we find the occupants displaying a new and rather startling talent, that of flying without visible means of propulsion, not even wings of the "Mothman" variety! Although flying entities have been reported at other

times, such as September 1954, Coldwater, Kansas, and October 1954, Como, Italy, *vide* FSR's THE HUMANOIDS, it is in 1967 that they are first reported in numbers.

From these 1967 reports it also seems as if we are entering a new phase of witness-occupant relationship in which attempts at communication are becoming much less of a random occurrence. This characteristic has again appeared in reports emanating from Argentina and America this year.

In this book the Lorenzens promulgate a new theory, namely that the UFOs might have been able to determine that our planet is about to undergo certain drastic physical changes and are on hand to witness the cataclysmic events. It seems as if the Lorenzens, along with other American researchers, prefer to interpret the facts in a rather pessimistic light.

In an appendix, the authors include a detailed version of the Robertson committee report of 1953. This report deserves careful scrutiny as it gives some indication of the extent of the CIA's interest in the problem at this early date.

In **Mysteries of the Skies** Lore (who replaced Richard Hall as assistant director of NICAP) and Deneault present an adequate and long-needed review of the 19th and early 20th century reports.

There are two chapters on the 1896-7 reports with particular emphasis on the West Coast area where the wave apparently began. The authors devote an unnecessary amount of space to the spurious claims of several inventors, and give the impression that they put stock in such claims. Also they seem totally unaware of previous research into this period by Jerome Clark, Lucius Farish, Jacques Vallée and myself which has been presented in this REVIEW. This is regrettable since much of our respective researches confirm and complement each other.

The authors have also included a chart of planet positions reproduced from an American ephemeris of 1896-7 which is helpful in distinguishing those reports from that period of an astronomical nature.

Also there are two very informative chapters on the "foo-fighters" at home and on the war fronts, containing much new information on the elusive objects.

Both books contain chapters on UFOs and the sea, an increasingly important aspect of the phenomenon.

JOTTINGS ON NEW PUBLICATIONS BY C.B.

Prepared by two amateur astronomers, **Roger Stanway** and **Anthony Pace,** the "Flying Saucer Report" entitled **UFOs —Unidentified, Undeniable** caused quite a stir in the press—its impact even being felt among national newspapers. Privately published at 12s. 6d. (plus 1s. 6d. postage and packing, overseas 18s. including postage) it is a well-produced and remarkable account of investigations, with comments, on a series of sightings over and near The Potteries in Staffordshire. Obtainable from Newchapel Observatory, Newchapel, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs.

Flying Saucers over the West is another privately published document. By **A. W. Bearne,** this booklet is obtainable from 14, Southfield Avenue, Preston, Paignton, South Devon, at 3s. 6d. Here we have an account of a sighting which the author made on October 30, 1950, which he considers to have been, perhaps, the first to have been recorded in this country. His collection of supporting cases shows that there might well have been a "wavelet" in the autumn of that year. What I find impressive is that Mr. Bearne should have published this work

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BUFORA NEWS

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RESEARCH BULLETIN

The Association now publishes a regular Research Bulletin in addition to the Journal, and at no extra cost to members. It is edited by our new Director of Research, Stephen Smith, B.A., in close co-operation with our Investigation Co-ordinating Officer and other members.

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at his own expense because he felt that people should learn about this subject, and about the "opposition". Yet from reading the booklet, it seems he was not aware of the endeavours that had been made by others in this field since 1947.

———

Britain's ebullient contactee, **Arthur Shuttlewood,** is both author and publisher of **Warnings from Flying Friends** —Portway Press, 17, Portway, Warminster, Wiltshire, 266 pages, price 26s. I have met Arthur only on the occasion of a B.B.C. 2 *Late Night Line Up* programme in which we participated, and I must confess I was staggered by the way in which he contrived to say so much in so short a time. Now, he—and his friends—seem to have said an awful lot in this follow-up to *The Warminster Mystery;* so much indeed, that I have been quite unable to absorb it in time for a review in this issue.

———

Intercettateli Senza Sparare (Intercept them! Do not shoot!) by **Renato Vesco.** This well-documented Italian publication from U. Mursia & C., Milan, may be obtained from Mursia distributing agents Parker and Son Ltd., 27, Broad Street, Oxford, England, price 42s. Signor Vesco traces UFO history, describes the development of the AVRO "Saucer" in Canada, and asserts, among other things, that as the UFOs appear to come from over Canada, they are in reality the secret weapon that will help the British to establish mastery of the world! I can't imagine, if we had ambitions like that, that we would fly this incredible invention willy-nilly over the U.S.A., U.S.S.R., South America, France, Italy, Spain, let alone land it in those places!

———

For paperback readers . . . **Flying Saucers are watching us** (Belmont Productions, Inc., 1116, First Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10021, U.S.A., price 75c.). The author, **Otto O. Binder,** develops the theme that "a race of men from outer space is the long-sought-after 'missing link' in human development."

MAIL BAG

Correspondence is Invited from our readers, but they are asked to keep their letters short. Unless letters give the sender's full name and address (not necessarily for publication) they cannot be considered. The Editor would like to remind correspondents that it is not always possible to ackowledge every letter personally, so he takes this opportunity of thanking all who write to him.

On "floaters"

Sir,—I read with great interest the sighting of a cross-like object, as seen by Mr. Angus Brooks, in your January/February edition of this year. I have also read the copy of the explanation which the Ministry of Defence gave for this sighting.

As your readers know, they claim that the object which was seen were "floaters" or muscae volitantes, which are small particles floating in the vitreous, which is the gel-like substance at the back of the eye.

The explanation appeared well thought-out since (1) Mr. Brooks lay on his back to see the object and this movement may well have caused the musca volitante to float in front of the retina, (2) he looked at the sky, and these muscae volitantes are most easily seen when looking at a uniform background.

However, detail cannot be seen to the degree which Mr. Brooks claimed, for a musca volitante merely casts a shadow on the retina and this is what is actually seen. Also it is extremely unlikely, if not impossible, for a m.v. to remain stationary or almost stationary for 20 minutes, as claimed by Mr. Brooks.

It does appear however that m.v. are likely to become a popular alibi used by the Ministry of Defence, so I would like to suggest a simple method which can eliminate this possibility completely. It is simply that the right eye is closed and the object looked at with the left eye, and then the left eye is closed and the object looked at with the right eye. If the object is seen with both eyes separately then the object is **not** a m.v. since the chances of muscae volitantes being in the same position in both eyes is impossible. Thus I suggest that anyone who sees a UFO does this simple exercise so that the explanation of a m.v. may be eliminated completely.

Malcolm Williams, F.B.O.A. (Ophthalmic Optician), London W5, June 20, 1968.

Earthquake—too strong ?

Sir,—On re-reading my article *UFOs, Earthquakes and Volcanoes* in FSR for July/August 1968, I was horrified to find what I at first thought to be a terrible misprint in Case 2 (the English earthquake of February 11, 1967), for I had described it as of *force* 8. This struck me as impossibly high for Britain, and I at once referred back to the original article which was my source, namely *Saucers Over Midlands After Quakes*, on page 2 of FSR for March/April 1957.

To my very great surprise however I found that I had not copied it incorrectly. For the benefit of the many other readers who must have felt, as I did, that the magnitude of *eight* was a wild exaggeration, I quote the actual text of the original article, which consisted of a statement by no less an earthquake authority than Dr. A. T. J. Dollar himself, who is head of the Department of Geology at Birkbeck College, University of London.

Dr. Dollar said that he thought the focus of the quake probably lay at anything up to ten miles. And he went on to say: "The tremor was force eight on the isoseismal scale. There are only ten grades on the scale, so it was quite a high one."

Unless FSR made a mistake in its original rendering of Dr. Dollar's views, it looks therefore very much as though my article was not wrong in this respect. It would, however, be valuable if the geologists and seismologists among our readers could help me by confirming that it really was force 8, which I still find an alarmingly high figure for this country and perhaps one that goes far to confirm the accuracy of the predictions not only of the Soviet scientist Belovzov, but also of the remarkable American psychic and prophet Edgar Cayce.

G. W. Creighton, London SW7, September 12, 1968.

Men in Black

Sir,—Much has been written recently about the mysterious "men in black" who terrorise people who have seen UFOs, instruct them not to talk about what they have seen, and leave without trace or satisfactory identification. It is said that they don't belong to any official US organisation, and it is surmised that they must have something to do with the UFOs themselves, especially as in some cases they appear before the witness has spoken to anyone about his sighting. In my fairly extensive reading, I cannot remember having seen any reference to these gentlemen other than in the USA. The USA is by no means the only country in which UFOs are seen, and presumably the UFOs seen in America are no different from those seen elsewhere, so why do the "men in black" only appear in the USA? Unless of course they are really Government officials. It would be interesting to know

whether anyone has heard of any cases of these men visiting UFO witnesses in any other country.

Other methods of silencing UFO researchers seem to be used in the USA as well as visits by the "men in black", some of them so thorough that they are believed to have caused death. Is there any evidence that attempts are made, straightforward or mysterious, to silence British UFO researchers? If so, it would be interesting to gather evidence from those who have had experiences of this kind. If there is no such evidence, does this suggest that maybe the Americans are putting out stories which exaggerate the truth—or that the British researchers are not on the track of anything important, and therefore not worth silencing?

Janet Gregory, Mill Farm, Thringstone, Coalville, Leics. LE6 3UH, September 28, 1968.

[*An important point, that last one. Maybe these alleged interlopers are pure invention, maybe "in the mind of the beholders", maybe real. For some years* (1965-67) *the U.S. public were extremely conscious of UFOs; the subject boomed to a peak far, far above anything ever experienced elsewhere. Maybe that is why we have heard of the "Men in Black"—whatever they are—only from the USA.*—EDITOR.]

Keel replies

Sir,—I am happy to report that I am in excellent physical condition, am not given to incontinence, and will supply notarised affidavits from qualified physicians if necessary. However, I am a little bit worried about my head. All the rumours and nonsense circulating in this country may yet drive me around the bend. Am I really a C.I.A. agent (as one widespread rumour has it) or am I really an "android from outer space" (as another nationwide rumour currently claims)? Or am I just an inventive liar willing to sacrifice professional ethics and jeopardise my reputation and livelihood by "making up" UFO stories and then somehow conning hard-bitten, sceptical New York editors into publishing them, as your unnamed "technologist" asserts? I do wish all the rumour-mongers would get together and decide who and what I really am. The contradictions make me unhappy and could turn me into some kind of schizoid.

In the past two years I have published over forty detailed articles on the UFO phenomenon in major newspapers and national magazines. In those articles I have clearly explained my position and conclusions repeatedly and, I thought, succinctly. There should be no mystery at all about my methods, my activities, or my interpretations of the data. Mr. Rankow, who should know better, somehow twisted my advice that he research demonology into the ridiculous and malicious claim that I "believe in Deros and devils". Now really! As I have said so often in print, I have been unable to substantiate the extraterrestrial thesis in any manner and I do not think it is even remotely valid. I advise everyone to read the Bible from cover-to-cover since it is chock-full of stories of "three men" and filled with obvious "contactee" events. It is a veritable Ufological handbook (and I'm an atheist). I also advise ufologists to read textbooks on psychological warfare and police investigative methods. Such books are far more useful than speculative tomes on astronomy.

The phrase, "find out what they had for breakfast", is slang in American journalism for "find out *everything* about them". I thought this was made clear in my article which so confused Mr. Rankow.

The majority of my lengthy, heavily detailed reports go unpublished but are privately circulated to trusted and proven-serious ufologists around the world. Many of my findings are being confirmed and substantiated in numerous other areas. The editor of the FSR has seen a number of these reports and fully understands why it is necessary to keep them "secret" at this time.

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I have spent long hours in editorial conferences presenting tape recordings, affidavits and other documentation to editors in order to convince them that certain pieces should be published. Most of the major magazines require the signing of a statement swearing to the authenticity of the material and listing the sources. Is our "technologist" also accusing me of wanton perjury? The only "censorship" I have encountered is the self-imposed kind; editors who are sceptical because they have been exposed to the rantings and ravings of the UFO buffs for years.

The true facts of the UFO situation are far more sensational than anything I could "make up", and a great many of the cases I have uncovered are unpublishable because I have been unable to document them to my own satisfaction and would be laughed out of the editorial sanctum if I dared present them.

The scientists have been laughing for twenty years, not only at Keel but at all of us. Yet they cling to the myth that given sufficient government funds they can solve the "mystery" with computers and geiger counters. I'm afraid this is one situation which can not be resolved with money and ivory towerism.

What is needed is a solid, organised effort to collect and correlate the wealth of material *already available*. Unfortunately, the American scene is torn with dissent, shameless personality conflicts, rumour-mongering, and nit-pickers who write endless letters-to-the-editor complaining about typographical errors and muddy semantics. Virtually no constructive research is taking place in this country and those few of us who are making the effort are subjected to endless harassment and criticism by the lunatics, buffs, and grant-grubbing "scientists". The side issues seem to have become more important than the subject itself.

Let's find our way back to common sense and get to work.

John A. Keel, New York City, October 16, 1968.

[*Mr. Keel feared his letter would fall into my category of "polemics", but it is reasonable he should defend himself against critisism.*—EDITOR.]

World round-up *of news and comment about recent sightings*

ENGLAND
Another "spectre"?

From *Dunstable Borough Gazette* of September 27, 1968: "A mysterious white object sighted by a motorist while travelling in the dark along Dagnall Road between Bison Hill and Tring Road has caused speculation locally.

"The form was seen on Saturday night by Mr. E. Bennett and his 15-year-old daughter, Mandy, as they returned by car to their home at Hill Grove, Whipsnade.

"As the car neared the bottom of Bison Hill, says Mr. Bennett, a conical-shaped mass seemed to rise out from the grass verge about 25 yards ahead.

" 'It was six feet tall with an aura about it. It was a very odd appearance and it seemed to vanish through the hedge, although there was no gap it could have gone through,' he explained. 'It was an apparition of some kind, although I cannot explain it.'

"Mandy's first reaction was to utter: 'Ooh Daddy! What's that?' Her natural instinct was to suppose it was a ghost. But Mr. Bennett has dismissed that idea.

" 'I am a most practical person, and I do not believe in ghosts,' he stated emphatically. But he went on to describe it as 'very uncanny', because there were no cars approaching from the other direction, and there was no sign of any smoke or mist.

" 'There is no satisfactory explanation for it,' he surmised."

Credit: **Leslie Moulster** of Dunstable.

ARGENTINA
Hospital landing at El Sauce

In the Buenos Aires magazine *Gente y la Actualidad* for September 5, 1968, we read of an episode that took place on July 23 of this year at the Neuropsychiatric Hospital of El Sauce:

"Señora Adela Casavieri de Panasiti, a nurse there, saw 'a strange object' and suffered burns on her face.

"Let us hear her testimony: 'For ten years I have been night-nurse in one of the blocks of the Neuropsychiatric Hospital. The flying saucers were of no more and no less interest to me than to the average run of people. At 1.20 a.m. on July 23, I began to hear a most intense humming noise which shattered my ears. At first I thought it was something wrong with me myself, due to being shut up indoors and the heat and the stove. I opened the door and went out into the patio. The humming continued and more strongly now. Suddenly I saw, in the middle of the patio, a sort of object like a spinning-top with two antennae emitting a most powerful light. The light was so strong that it burnt me. I was paralysed from the waist downwards. I covered my face with my hands.

" 'But I wanted to see, I wanted to see and I moved one hand aside. Then I felt the burning sensation. The hum increased and the machine rose up through the branches of a pepper-tree. Only then was I able to move. I shouted. I related what had happened, and the only sign left that we saw was a sort of stamp that the object had left in the middle of the patio. The mark vanished in the following ten hours.'

"The 'case of the burnt nurse' led to many theories. Those who see a rational explanation for it consider it was all due to a state of semi-consciousness caused by being shut up indoors and by the heat of the stove. At any rate, there remained floating in the minds of many a remark that was apparently devoid of importance: 'The night that that business of the flying saucer happened to me' (said the nurse) 'something also happened that was very strange indeed. The patients were all so quiet, all sleeping away regularly in a way that never happens, for generally there are always some quarrelling, some shouting, some talking, some getting up to take a stroll, some asking for water. . . . That night, from just a little while before the apparition of the flying saucer, the block was in perfect silence. The discipline was perfect.' "

Credit: **Guillermo J. Gainza Paz** of Buenos Aires.

Police fire at "Ufonauts"

La Razon for July 26, 1968, carries

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Cover Logotype by Pauline Bowen

an account of how the town of Olavarria was again stirred by a fascinating sighting, as reported in *El Popular* of Mar del Plata:

"It was a little after 2 a.m., when a large part of the district close to the little stream Tapalque was lit up by a bright luminosity accompanied by an ever-increasing drone. A police corporal—whose name we withhold, and who at that moment was on his way to change guards—was amazed at this strange phenomenon. Hurriedly he returned to the police office with four other witnesses to report, and the police officer on duty authorised them to make an investigation.

"In a jeep, and armed with an automatic gun, they drove to the site where they had seen the light. To their great astonishment they saw a flat oval object a few metres above the ground, which emitted multi-coloured flashes as it moved about. Suddenly with intelligent movements and at an incredible speed it turned sideways and then landed beside some bushes behind the runway used by military planes in cases of emergency. The powerful light seemed to dim and the drone had become a mere hum. Beside the flying disc there stood three strange beings, over 2 metres high and clad in silvery uniforms.

"With slow, unsteady steps, the three strangers advanced towards the military garrison. Surprised and scared, the police officer tried to stop them by firing a volley of bullets at them. Fortunately he did not hit them. At this all three spacemen lifted their hands simultaneously, displaying a small luminous ball, at which all the witnesses were overcome by a strange lassitude and incapable of using their gun. Finally the three spacemen got back into their flying disc and, zigzagging, flew away at a fast speed. Only then did the witnesses recover their senses and returned post haste to Olavarria to report on the happenings.

Credit: **Miss E. Greinert,** who also supplied the translation.

ARGENTINA
UFO over airport

This report is compiled from *La Razon* and *La Nacion* of July 25, 1968, by **Miss Edith Greinert:**

At the airport of San Carlos de Bariloche, near Bahia Blanca, there occurred an event witnessed by pilots, ground staff of various air companies, passengers of three aeroplanes, police, as well as many other people.

On Monday, July 22, at 2 p.m., an "excessively long" plane appeared over the airport and began flying around its perimeter at only 70 metres from the ground, as if looking for a place to land. On the runways at that moment there was an AVRO of the Aerolineas Argentinas, a BAC-One Eleven of Austral, and a DC3 of the Air Force. The Control Tower had not received an announcement of the arrival or departure of any other plane, yet there was that unusually long object flying at low altitude over the runway and watched by all those present at the airport. According to the statement made by one of the officials of the airport—whose name we withhold, as he belongs to a government department—the plane or object failed to answer the radio signals authorising its landing. They then used the light-pistol, which is used for planes that have no radio transmitter, and flashed the green light permitting the landing. The object was like a very long aircraft with delta wings. Watched through binoculars, it was seen to make circuits over the runways and on arriving at the extreme end of runway 28, it rolled over quite unexpectedly on its axis in a 360° turn, using very little space to complete the manoeuvre, and then shot away towards the south-east.

The informant is an expert in all these questions and as a radio operator he is accustomed to observations, communications and identification of objects in flight. He said it was like a very long Canberra Jet with Delta wings, and bigger than a Constellation. It resembled a U-2, which the USA use for observation flights and of which there are several in this country. Yet it was neither a Canberra nor a U-2. No windows could be seen; at least none of a known kind. On one side four squares were painted in black: three small ones and a big one. Some witnesses pretended that the lower part was painted red, but this was not confirmed by the informant.

Mr. Sigfriedo Cortonodo, employed at the airport, confirmed the preceding details and added that the most amazing were the "harmonious" evolutions of the plane. In spite of its extreme length, apparent great weight and short wings, it glided about like a Piper and with the grace and ease of a bird. According to a member of the Gendarmerie, there were two turbo-jet engines, slightly sibilant, almost silent, which were situated in the lower part of the "cigar". What also impressed the experts was its ability to fly at low speed, for it seemed to have no planes of support (no planos de sustencion). The fact that there exist airplanes which can rise and descend vertically, possibly accounts for the described ability of the unknown object. But what baffles the witnesses most is that this object, which did not want to identify itself properly, seemed about to land on the runway of the airport of San Carlos de Bariloche without any apparent necessity to do so and that after having amazed everybody by its exceptional manoeuvrability, it just flew away at considerable speed.

UFO at sea

La Nación of July 12, 1968, reports: "Yesterday at 5.30 a.m. Radio Pacheco received a radiogram from Jorge Bóveda, captain of the Argentine motor-ship *Rio Grande* belonging to the Compania de Navigación El Plata S.A. Its text was as follows: 'At 5.05 a.m. GMT, while outside Necochea, at latitude 38° 36′ 4″ and western longitude 58° 41′ 3″, we saw a UFO at asimuth 174°, height between 3-5°, which for a duration of 60 seconds flashed lights over the sea. In the shape of a cone, its apex was uppermost, and its colours were orange and violet.

" 'This UFO advanced towards the ship till it was about half a mile away. Then it rose and disappeared. Present were the undersigned, the chief of the radio-communication department, and the helmsman on duty.'

"Radio Pacheco forwarded the text of the radiogram to the Coast Guard."

Corroboration

The July 12 report was followed by another from Necochea in *La Nación* of July 13, 1968, which ran: "Referring to our report concerning a UFO seen by Captain Jorge Bóveda of the *Rio Grande*, and his crew, other witnesses confirm the sighting. Mr. Francisco Pazdera, Miss Blanca Zubillaga, Miss Diana Etcheverry and her sister Aurora, declare having seen the mysterious object at the same time, 1.05 a.m., while walking along the sea promenade yesterday night. Their report coincides in all its details with that made by Captain Bóveda."

Credit for these reports, and their translation: **Miss E. Greinert.**

BRAZIL
Reported Landing on Torres Beach

The following account has been prepared for us by **Professor Richard A. Frondizi** of Buenos Aires, and is based on a report which appeared in *La Razón* for July 22, 1968:

Professor Axel Aberg Cobo, aged 28, the son of wealthy Argentinian parents, was staying at the family apartment in Torres during the summer season.

Torres is a small resort on the coast of the State of Rio Grande do Sul, in the southernmost part of Brazil, close by the borders with Argentina and Uruguay. I know the place well, as my father used to build railways there for a British company.

One night towards the end of January 1968 Aberg Cobo was walking along the beach to visit the Torres Beach Friends' Association. Suddenly

he saw a luminous object emerging from the waters of the Atlantic Ocean, at a distance of about 25 metres from where he was standing.

"I felt paralysed", said Aberg Cobo. "A powerful ray of light came from the object. I have never seen anything like it before. I could not estimate the dimensions of the object as I had no point of reference in the water."

Shortly after the silver-coloured object came out of the water, Aberg Cobo saw two 'men', each more than 2 metres tall, and he felt as though they were communicating with him "by means of some telepathic channel."

The "men" looked as though they were made of crystal, and seemed to have no knee joints, for they walked rather stiffly. "I remember they greeted me", continued Aberg Cobo, "touching their shoulders with their hands. I felt a need to record what they were saying, and managed to get out a ball-point pen with which I wrote their words on my bare arms and legs. Fancy that—and me a professor of Human Relations and Journalism""

Aberg Cobo had the impression that one of the beings introduced himself as *Rubinako*, and said words that sounded like: "Krebs, Navia, Karsicujo, Karincujo and Krero." His companion remained silent.

The witness concluded his account thus: "The last thing I remember is that they announced that I would meet them again in the city of Mar del Plata (the most important summer resort in the Argentine). I do not quite remember how they left, but I have a notion that the silver-coloured thing took off vertically, and was gone in a cloud of coloured lights."

This professor of journalism and executive consultant has written two books. One has the title *Introduction to informal communications*, while the other is *We are losing ground*. This latter probably deals with the struggle against communism, because his father, Dr. A. A. Cobo, a former professor in the Faculty of Law in Buenos Aires, is a known anti-communist.

"Fortean" fall of flesh and blood

FSR representative **Nigel Rimes** writes: "Various São Paulo papers of August 30, 1968, carried a report that, according to the Deputy Marcondes Fereiro, meat and blood fell over an area of one square kilometre, for from five to seven minutes, on Tuesday, August 27, between Coçpava and São José dos Campos, 9 km. distant from the Via Dutra Highway which links Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo.

"The pieces of flesh were found lying at distances of half a metre apart, their size varying between lengths of 5 cm. and 20 cm. The meat was of a spongy texture and violet in colour, and was accompanied by drops of blood. The sky at the time was quite clear. No aircraft had been seen just prior to, during, or after the event, nor were there any birds in the sky. The police removed samples."

URUGUAY

Railway landing

According to the São Paulo paper *Diário da Noite* of August 31, 1968, a UPI report from Montevideo said that UFOs had been active for the past 10 days over the town of Artigas, on Uruguay's northern frontier with Brazil, and, according to the local correspondent of the Montevideo paper, *B.P. Color*, there had been a landing.

According to the last-named paper, the first object had been seen 10 days before, flying around the tower of the Artigas radio station and emitting "flashes of light that resembled the flame of a welding torch". There were numerous witnesses, including a priest named Father Rubén Irureta. On several nights thereafter the same thing continued, until on Tuesday, August 27, a "flying object" was seen by the student Rubén Dias and his mother to land on the railway tracks and take off again. Before landing it had passed over the town of Artigas, where a number of people had seen it.

(Digest report from **Nigel Rimes.**)

SPAIN

Saucer formation over Malaga ?

From several Spanish newspapers of September 25 and from the Italian *La Nazione* of the same date we learn how "Shortly after 8 p.m. on September 24, a total of at least 12 people saw 10 luminous objects flying at great speed over the vicinity of Gibralfaro Castel, near Málaga, southern Spain.

"The objects were in two groups, one of six, and the other of three. The tenth 'saucer' flew independently and appeared to be the leader. They were in view for several minutes before vanishing. All showed the familiar pattern of changing colours, red, green, white. All were emitting flashes of light as though communicating.

"The leader, in front, emitted far brighter flashes than the rest, The formation of the six was a straight line, while the second group were flying in a precise triangle, and on the right of the line."

[*Did a satellite decay at that time?*—EDITOR.]

Credit: **Mrs. Mary Boyd** of Firenze and **Señor Ignacio Darnaude** of Sevilla.

Creatures at sea

According to Spanish press reports of September 22, 1968, Juan Ballesta, a fisherman at Gerona (far N.E. tip of Spain, north of Barcelona) saw two strange beings on September 21 some 100 metres from the beach at La Escala. The beings had completely yellow faces and were dressed in black. At first he thought he could see, in the sea, what looked like a buoy, but approaching more closely, he was astonished to see a second object emerge from the sea beside it, and to find that they were these two strange beings.

The man informed the police authorities, who examined the beach and vicinity, but found no traces of the creatures.

Credit: **Señor Ignacio Darnaude.**
Translation: **G. Creighton.**

"Flying Pyramid" over Madrid

From the *Daily Telegraph* of September 9, 1968, we learn how "An unidentified pyramid-shaped object with three blobs of light glowing underneath hovered over Madrid for 65 minutes last night. It disappeared at high speed, chased by a Spanish Air Force plane flying at 50,000ft.

"Scores of people photographed the object, which was not picked up by the radar equipment at the American air base at Torrejon. Meteorologists denied sending a balloon over Madrid."

[*We hope to have more about this case in a future issue of FSR.*—EDITOR.]

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